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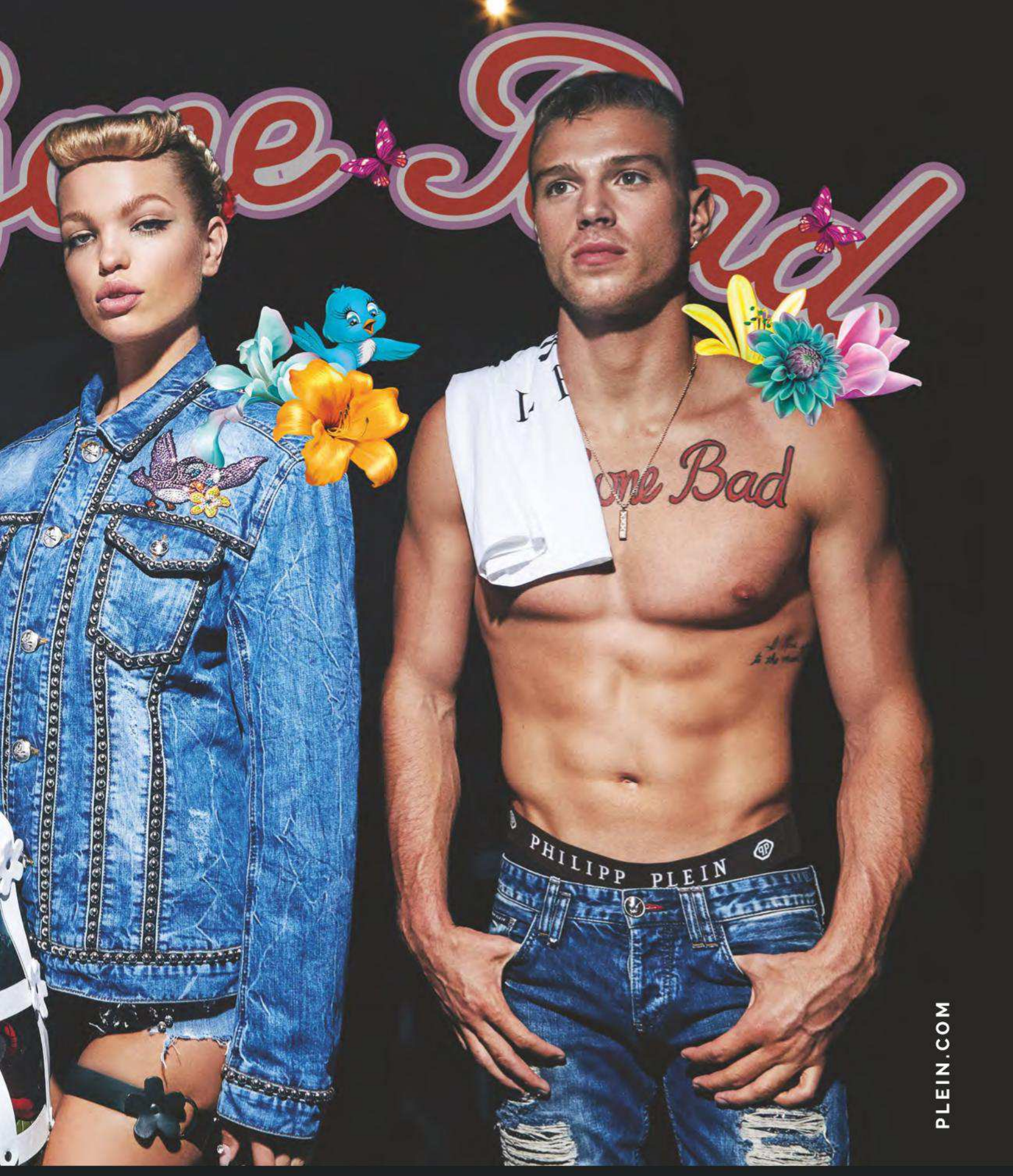

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EDITOR'S LETTER

GENTLEMEN'S QUARTERLY

By now we should all be accustomed to the festival ecosystem changing with the seasons. As one dismantles its tents for good, another will spring up in a field in a part of the country you didn't even know existed. There are hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of music festivals in Britain: camping weekends; one-dayers; floating festivals; general-interest arts festivals where you're just as likely to trip over some experimental theatre group or some agit-prop cabaret as you are a third-rate rock band; and, increasingly, urban festivals, those city-based bastions of organised bacchanalia. This summer more than 3.9 million people will go to a festival of one description or another – some of you will be 18, some will be 60, but for all of us they have become a divine right.

These days, festivals are a cornerstone of the alternative season, along with the Monaco Grand Prix, the Cannes Film Festival and the August bank holiday weekend in Ibiza. A few years ago we sent the late AA Gill to Glastonbury for a magazine feature and he only agreed to do it if we organised a Winnebago for him. Unsurprisingly, he wasn't alone in this. Take a peek backstage at Glastonbury and you'll think you've walked into a new show called *Celebrity Trailer Trash*. These days some festivals are so civilised they feel like the Chelsea Flower Show, the only difference being the fact that the men wear hoodies and knee-length khaki shorts instead of blazers and chinos.

My quintessential rock festival experience happened in 1975, when I was just 15, at Reading, the small Berkshire town that for three days each August turned (and still does turn) into a wretched, swirling mud bath full of long-haired layabouts in patchwork denim jeans, patchwork denim jackets and patchwork denim waistcoats, every one of them smelling of Brut, Bacardi, patchouli or some combination thereof. Every year it would rain, every year we would be surprised and every year we would spend three days wallowing around like spaced-out Gloucestershire old spots in knee-high mud, experiencing our very own suburban lifestyle version of the Somme. I went to a lot of festivals in the mid Seventies and the weekends were always exactly the same. Oh, how I wish I'd known then what I know now. Namely that there's no such thing as bad weather, only inappropriate clothing. Still, there was nothing we could do. There was such an orthodoxy surrounding denim at the time that if you saw someone dressed in anything else, you didn't think they were being different, in any way idiosyncratic or fashion forward; you simply thought they'd made a mistake.

Fireworks on and off stage at Foo Fighters' Glastonbury headline set, 2017

The Reading Festival (now twinned with Leeds, which happens on the same weekend and between which the entire lineup is rotated over three days) is still a rite of passage, somewhere to go when you've finished with your exams or dropped clumsily out of college.

Festivals are a cornerstone of the alternative season

Ostensibly people have always gone to festivals to conjure up a sense of community (however bogus it might be), although along the way you will, at some point in the proceedings, be forced to actually listen to some music. And while in 2018 this will mean Kendrick Lamar, Kings Of Leon and Travis Scott, in 1975 the soundtrack was supplied by the likes of Wishbone Ash, Dr Feelgood and Hawkwind.

All were equal in the eyes of the audience. If we liked someone they received a barrage of empty beer cans; if we loathed someone they received a barrage of empty beer cans; and if we found someone mediocre (I remember this being largely the case whenever I went to Reading) to be on the safe side they received a barrage of empty beer cans. John Peel would occasionally get pelted too, for simply having the temerity to walk across the stage in an attempt to play some records. There was a strange kind of democracy at work here, one based on fairly egalitarian, if not quite utopian, principles.

When I first started going to them, the pop festival was basically rock'n'roll camping and the only survival kit you needed – or at least the only one you were expected to bring – consisted of a greatcoat, a sleeping bag, an industrial-sized pouch of Old Holborn, a packet of Rizla and a substantial amount of clear plastic sheeting. Oh, and a tent. You needed a tent so that at 4am some drunk, loon-panted idiot could come falling onto it, singing "Smoke On The Water", "Stairway To Heaven" or "Free Bird" at the top of his voice while brandishing a Party Seven (which, for the uninitiated, was essentially a tin the size of a punch bag containing seven pints of what tasted like decidedly flat light ale). You see, if you didn't have a tent, there would have been nothing to break his fall.

Ten years ago, the apotheosis of this social phenomenon was Cornbury Music Festival. It took place in the lush Cotswolds grounds of the Cornbury Park Estate and – because a >>

>> healthy percentage of the audience hailed from Notting Hill and Kensington – it immediately became known as Poshstock. And when you saw a Cath Kidson stall next to the more traditional veggie-burger stand, you realised that when people called this the middle-class Glasto, they weren't being ironic. When I went to Cornbury, I spent an afternoon drinking Pimms and watching the Ukelele Orchestra Of Great Britain – a dinner-jacketed supper club band that at the time had won acclaim everywhere from Tokyo to Chicago via Sadler's Wells and the Festival Hall, with their extraordinary versions of "Life On Mars" and "Miss Dynamite". As afternoon entertainment they beat Hawkwind or Wishbone Ash.

Foo Fighters' roller-coaster rock is at its best in an open field

Apart from the fact that a large proportion of modern festival-goers might normally drive 4x4s, wear imported white Birkenstocks and hold down unbelievably serious jobs in the City (this was certainly the case at last year's Big Feastival, which takes places every August on Alex James' farm), not that much has changed. Kudos is still determined by your haircut, by your clothes (if you're over 30 then never, ever try to dress younger) and by your ability to convincingly claim to know someone who knows someone who knows someone else who might be able to conjure up a little something "for personal use only". Oh, and most importantly, having your Uber account set permanently to Lux.

Led by Dave Grohl, Foo Fighters are obviously one of the biggest festival attractions in the world and when this month's *GQ* cover star and his band appeared at Glastonbury in 2017, their performance was hailed as not just one of the best of the year, but one of the best of all time. Their roller-coaster heads-down-see-you-at-the-end breed of rock is at its most intoxicating in an open field and even critics of the band say that they take to the stage with the gusto of a group having their first garage band practice. Foo Fighters are a monumental band and in this issue they've been given a suitably monumental treatment by Features Director Jonathan Heaf and photographer Norman Jean Roy.

Elsewhere you'll find a rather less celebratory piece by GQ.co.uk's News And Features Editor Anna Conrad on the unwokeness of the modern music festival, a place where – she argues – traditions have stagnated to such an extent that the gender imbalance on most bills is demeaning to all. Anna also questions why music festivals don't try harder to counteract male toxicity and showcase more diversity. I hope you enjoy it, whether you're 18 or 60. GQ

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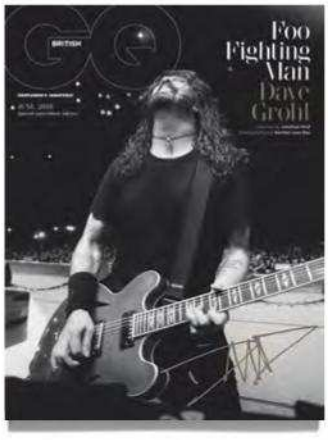

On the cover: Dave Grohl wears jacket by **Paul Smith**, £1,200. paulsmith.com. T-shirt, Dave's own

On the subscribers' cover: Dave Grohl wears T-shirt by **Calvin Klein Jeans** , £30. calvinklein.co.uk

Photographed by **Norman Jean Roy**

Dylan Jones

Dylan Jones, Editor

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Harry Styles' stylist styles Harry
Top names in the fashion business suggest what the prince should wear to his wedding, from stylist Harry Lambert to the DSquared2 twins, Dean and Dan Caten. **gq.uk/harrysuit**

Best man's speech advice (for William)
It's a rite of passage for us all, but how do you nail the wedding speech? Justin Myers bestows fail-proof advice to all the future best men out there. **gq.uk/bestmanspeech**

Wondering what watch to buy?
GQ's Bill Prince will be on hand at the Royal Exchange on 23 May to answer all your horologic questions in real time. Can't make it? Tune into our Facebook Live.

How to buy a morning suit
Senior Commissioning Editor Charlie Burton delves into the world of high-end tailoring to find out how to buy the ultimate attire for your wedding.

The return of Arctic Monkeys
On 5 May in LA, Sheffield's finest are getting back on the road and our writer Kevin Perry will be there to report first-hand on the band's much-anticipated comeback.

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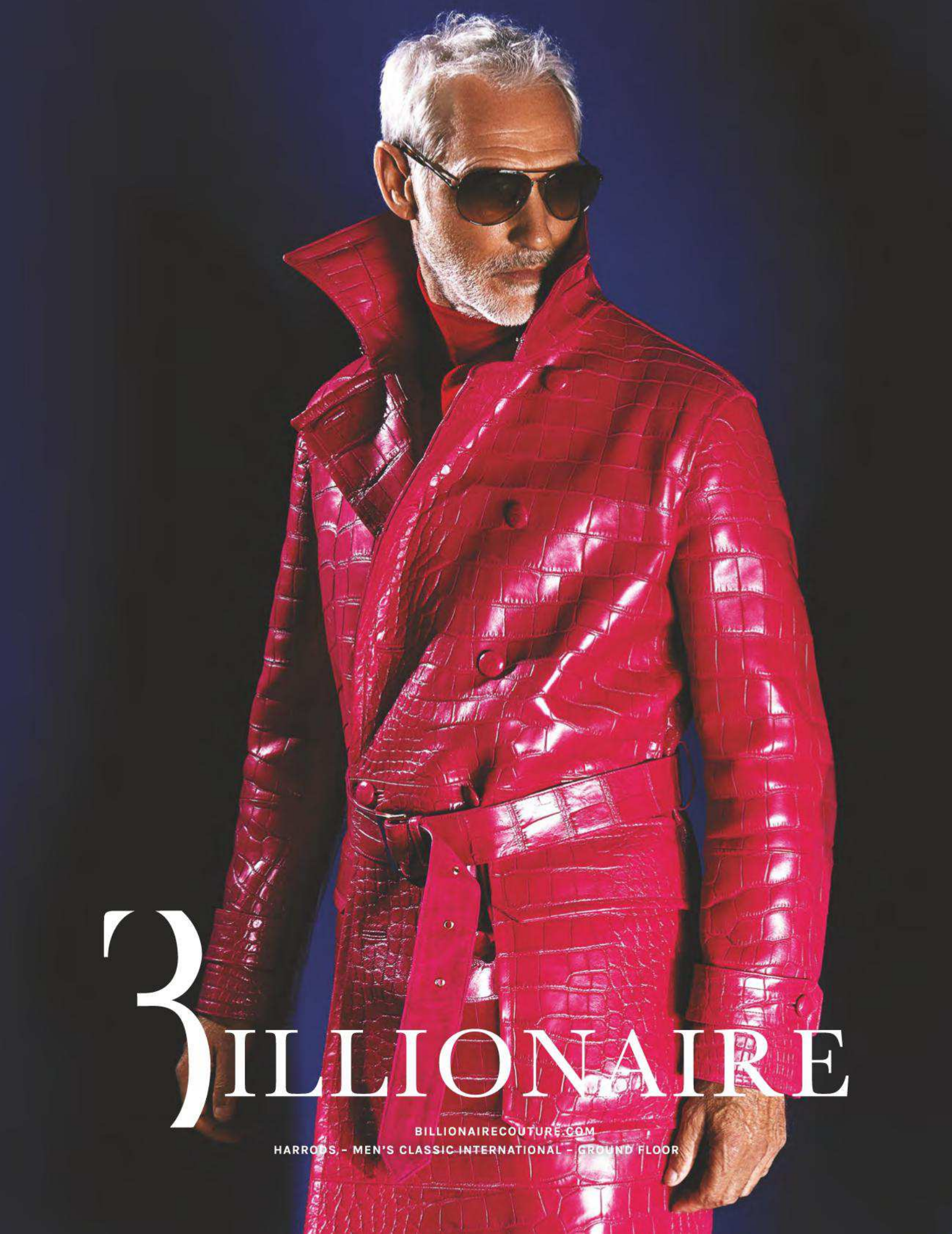
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GENTLEMEN'S QUARTERLY

Oliver BULLOUGH

It is a dangerous time to be a journalist in Russia, but Oliver Bullough, author of *The Last Man In Russia* braved international tension to report on attitudes towards 2018's World Cup host nation. Bullough says, "Despite perhaps the worst breakdown in relations since the Cold War, every ordinary Volgograder I spoke to was just looking forward to sharing a beer with someone from England."

Jonathan HEAF

Last year, Foo Fighters released their first studio album in three years, *Concrete And Gold*, and it went straight to No1. A Brit Award for Best International Group later and the band's comeback was official. *GQ* Features Director Jonathan Heaf joined the world tour in Argentina for a heady trip with the Foos' frontman. "Saying Dave Grohl is the nicest man in rock is a platitude," says Heaf, "but he is the smartest."

Eleanor DAVIES

GQ's new Online Production Coordinator Eleanor Davies was instrumental in organising our annual Food & Drink Awards presented by Veuve Clicquot. Now in its fourth year, these awards announce the UK's most important and innovative culinary talent. You can find the winners in this issue. As Davies explains, "The food and drink scene in the UK has never been so vibrant."

Anna CONRAD

This summer's Wireless Festival has only three women on the bill, which prompted GQ.co.uk's News And Features Editor Anna Conrad to ask why diversity in the music industry is still such a problem. "Some festivals have pledged a 50/50 split in their lineups to solve the problem," says Conrad, who wrote this issue's Foreword. "But this feels like a sticking plaster for a much larger issue."

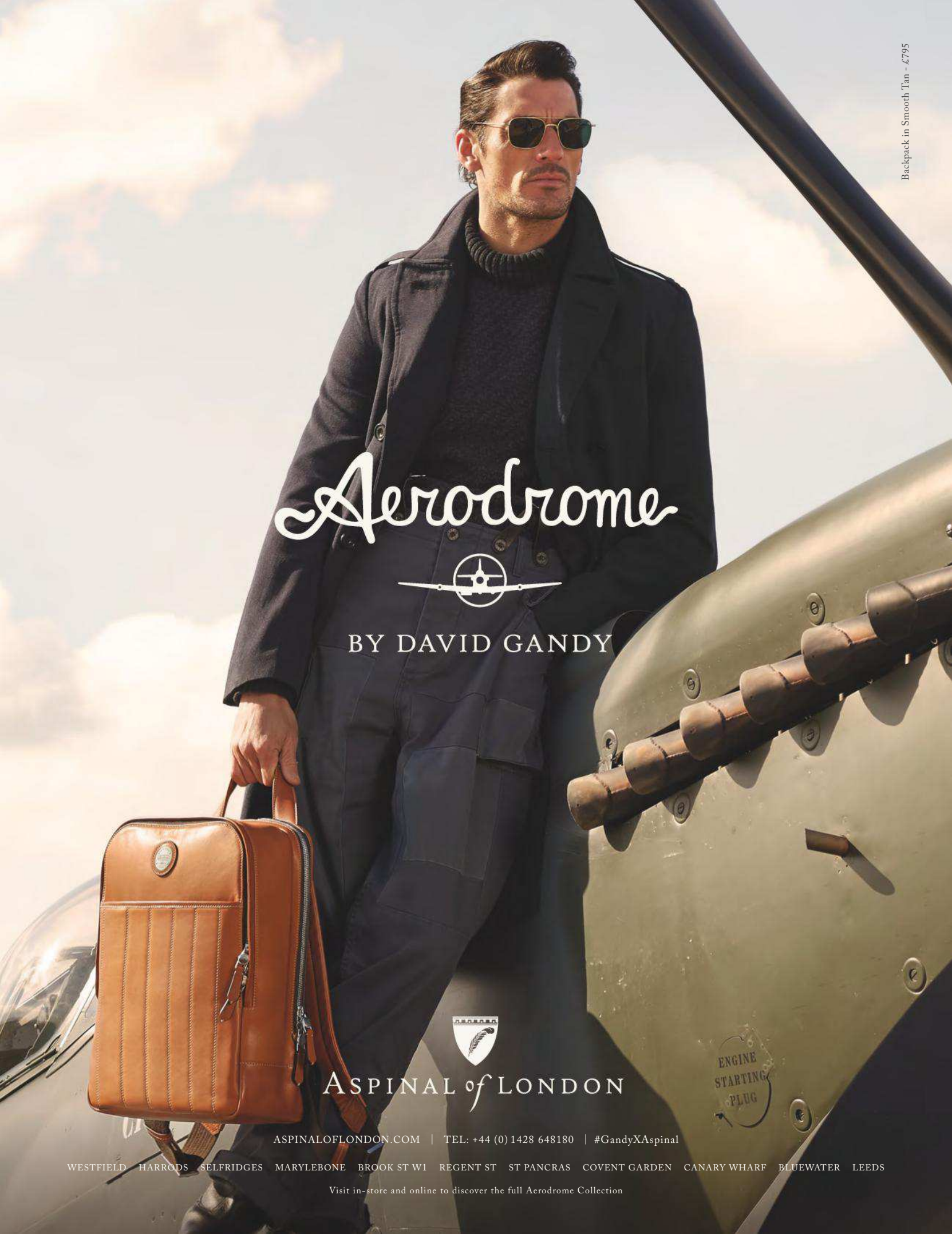
Julie KRAULIS

Toronto-based timepiece illustrator Julie Kraulis is renowned for her photorealistic sketches of watches, which take up to 250 hours to complete. We commissioned her to illustrate a bimetal Santos De Cartier for the cover of our midterm watch report. "The simplicity of a Cartier timepiece allows the material to shine through," says Kraulis. "They're beautifully designed watches."

Giampaolo SGURA

Consider Prada's upcoming collection a greatest hits of sorts. Shot by Giampaolo Sgura in Miami against a backdrop of flaming Mustang cars, our AW18 preview was styled by *GQ* Fashion Director Luke Day using archive print shirts and board shorts inspired by the brand's back catalogue. "I admire Miuccia Prada's vision and her great sensibility for art," says Sgura. "She is one of a kind." GQ

Photograph **Sam Peat**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Women, unplugged

With all-male headliners and precious few female bookings further down the bill, this summer's music festivals stand for a sad – and dangerous – loutishness. It's time we staged an intervention

Story by **Anna Conrad**

At the start of this year a festival bill went viral for all the wrong reasons – as we've come to expect from the term "viral".

Wireless Festival, in London, featured just three women on the lineup, all weekend. When Lily Allen tweeted a doctored version of the event's poster, with every male artist erased, the retweets swiftly accumulated like a Lottery rollover. The three women's names hovered in isolation. Mabel's looked tiny on its own on the Friday. Saturday there wasn't one woman. Sunday there were just two: Cardi B and Lisa Mercedez. "The struggle is real," Allen wrote. DJ Annie Mac called the situation "appalling".

It's a growing trend that festival bills are more likely to be shared for their lack of diversity, rather than their headliners. It's a "Look What You Made Me Do" reaction to growing monotony and predictability. And you can empathise, particularly when you learn that Muse are the most headlined festival band of recent years. Of course they are. Think about it. At almost every festival I've been to they've been there warbling on for seven hours about black holes like a petulant Brian Cox. When I was covering festivals as a music journalist, I ended up seeing Muse more than my own mother. According to an investigation by the BBC of more than 14 festivals from 2008 to 2017, Kasabian and The Killers also dominated festival headline slots. Rihanna was the only female act to total four top billings, followed by Florence And The Machine and Grace Jones, with three headline slots each.

Dated white male rock bands sell. The reason why is another matter, but they do. It means that many mainstream festivals play it ultra safe. They end up regularly booking the buoyancy aids of headliners – those who float off into the distance, hoping for no new waves to knock them off course.

There were no female acts at all on Wireless' Saturday lineup

The strange thing about Wireless is that it's pitched as young and clued-up. It's known for championing cutting-edge artists and rising stars in grime and R&B, the ones who are relevant, the ones people are actually streaming. If you were going to call any festival "woke" – the term that took off on social media to describe being socially aware about racial and social discrimination, injustice and inclusivity – Wireless wouldn't have been an unreasonable choice. But to feature only three women this year shows they're in as much of a slumber as the rest of them. Think of the big acts: Taylor Swift, Katy Perry, Lorde and Lily Allen herself are all on tour this year. Janelle Monáe's new album is out, so a tour must be on the horizon. Then think even harder about the rising stars, the future headliners, the trendsetters, the record breakers: Dua Lipa, Stefflon Don, Jorja Smith, SZA, Camila Cabello, to name but a few. They need as much exposure as they can get.

Hannah Braid, co-organiser of Festifeel, the annual music festival that raises money for breast cancer awareness, calls this year's Wireless lineup "mind-boggling". >>

Illustration **Gregori Saavedra**

>> She says, "Curating a diverse lineup for any genre shouldn't be this hard. I worry there's a misconception that there's just not enough female artists, not enough girls making good enough music. Ridiculous in my opinion. Even more ridiculous is the fact that those able to showcase new talent are disregarding a huge sector of our industry.

"Many suggest that sidelining does not exist, yet time and time again we see festival lineups appear with an abundance of male acts. Those who suggest it's merely genre preference are even worse."

'Creating a diverse lineup for any genre shouldn't be this hard'

How woke can a festival be? As time goes on, news breaks and conversations change, festival bills are like iPods in an era of streaming. Industry dinosaurs are clamping their headphones ever tighter to cancel out the social media noise. Lineups should reflect what's going on culturally and they're not. Clearly it's not easy being a woke festival, as it means being bold in a climate where a backlash is inevitable and highly public, and it means being zeitgeisty at a time when the zeitgeist isn't marketable. It's easier to not know what year it is. It's easier to keep booking Kasabian – preserve them in carbonite, cryogenically freeze them, do whatever they have to do to keep ticket sales steady.

Alan Edwards, chairman of PR firm The Outside Organisation – which works with Rock En Seine, Y Not and British Summer Time, the latter of which has had Taylor Swift, Kylie Minogue, Debbie Harry, Carole King, Stevie Nicks, Corrine Bailey Rae, Ellie Goulding, Patti Smith and Grace Jones play in recent years – says, "Agents and promoters are very canny in this day and age and they know what's likely to sell and what doesn't. Seeing as most of them are working on a commission basis it's surely all about booking the acts most likely to create a successful event and bring in the crowds." He adds that it's "hard to believe gender is part of the decision-making process". Cornbury Music Festival's organiser, Hugh Phillimore, agrees. "Most of the big mainstream festivals are run by the big corporate players in the live business and they only really care about the profit." He feels that audiences don't "consider the sex of the artist".

One of the biggest tours of 2018 will be Beyoncé and Jay-Z's On The Run II, but if they were to headline a major festival this summer, the backlash would be inevitable. When Kendrick Lamar was announced as a headliner for this year's Reading and Leeds, a great coup for the festival, the tweets rolled in. "@OfficialRandL no Glasto and you still don't get Arctics or Foos!? It's supposed to be a rock festival not a 'BBC Radio 1 pays me festival!' Dua Lipa and Kendrick Lamar. Behave will you," wrote Twitter user @tomSharrison. From the 2008 uproar when Jay-Z headlined Glastonbury, to 2015, when a petition launched to ban Kanye West from headlining the same festival and gathered 135,000 signatures, the resistance to change is a longstanding tradition. It's no surprise @tomSharrison felt the way he did. If you've ever been to Leeds or Reading you've meet a lot of @tomSharrisons, sticklers for the genre. But when the festival bends to the will of the @tomSharrisons, it becomes an echo chamber and time continues to stand still.

There's a ubiquitous object at those festivals, a status symbol that becomes weaponised, turning artists and punters into targets. It's a bottle filled with a substance that you wish was cider, but know all too well isn't. That shining beacon of male toxicity is pretty emblematic of a few of the bigger music festivals to date, which exist in a bubble of misogyny and bad behaviour all contained within a weekend – a time to put on luminous sunglasses and vest tops and act like a frat boy vying for a job in the Trump administration. It may seem harmless, but music festivals are hitting crisis point, with bad behaviour being condoned and reports of sexual assault on the rise.

Between 2014 and 2016, eight sexual assaults were reported at Reading Festival. In 2017, the Swedish festival Bravalla cancelled 2018's event following reports of four rapes and 23 sexual assaults that allegedly happened on site. In response, a festival in Sweden is now taking place in August that forbids men attending and features a predominantly female lineup. Statement Festival will be the world's largest women-only festival. It was funded on Kickstarter and organised by Swedish comedian Emma Knyckare, who originally wrote on Twitter following the Bravalla attacks, "What do you think about putting together a really cool festival where only non-men are welcome that we'll run until all men have learned how to behave themselves?"

She has a point, but can things move forward if men aren't around to see things change? Hannah Braid tells me, "I'm all for a women-only festival, although I don't think that's the only solution. Yes a female-only festival would solve some problems, but I think it's a wider discussion about how to make them safer so there doesn't need to be women-only festivals." Banning men is an extreme, but other solutions seem pretty limp in comparison. In February, 45 music festivals, including the Proms, Liverpool Sound City and Kendal Calling, pledged a 50/50 gender split in their lineups by 2022.

Glastonbury's co-organiser Emily Eavis doesn't agree with the idea. "We have certain stages, such as The Park, which have already had bills with more than half the acts featuring females, but I don't think we need to set a target in the form of a fixed percentage, as we're doing all that we can year on year. We're making serious progress. But, as one of the only female bookers for a major UK festival, believe me that gender balance is a subject that is very close to my heart and will always inform how we book the thousands of acts that perform here. Everything at this festival is underpinned by women."

Festival quotas feel like a sticking plaster to a larger issue, which is the promotion of women in the music industry. But knowing all of this, how can festivals move forward? Alan Edwards tells me, "Promoters and agents can only book what's in front of them, so it's possible that any imbalance starts earlier, with the development of acts in A&R departments and clubs."

Initiatives such as ReBalance appear to be more on the right track. The programme by Festival Republic provides studio time to female artists, along with apprenticeships to women who want to work in sound engineering and production. Braid explains that, "Small changes make a huge difference. As a nod to the hot topic of the lack of female artists on UK festival bills and to mark International Women's Day, Huw Stephens' Radio 1 slot was recently made up solely of female artists – no male vocals allowed. I'm pretty certain people wouldn't have turned off the show because they hadn't heard a male vocal."

Shouting from the rooftops about quotas won't change things, but if festivals worked harder, if they became more mindful about their decisions behind-the-scenes and on their posters, diverse lineups would happen more naturally. Only when these subtle changes happen will lineups start to more closely resemble the priorities of our time. Gradually they might even be considered woke. Until then, more festival bills will be doctored to reveal female disadvantage, more retweets will accumulate, more artists and ticket buyers will be enraged and more music festivals will remain fast asleep. GQ

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GQ Details

Edited by **Charlie Burton**

Silver-screen sunglasses p.41 **The rules on mules** p.42 **World Cup comebacks** p.46

Shirt by **Frame**, £290. At net-a-porter.com. Bra, £840. Knickers, £680. Both by **Dior**. dior.com. Necklace by **Jennifer Meyer**, £850. jennifermeyer.com

THE RISING STAR

Kiersey Clemons

There's a magic-hour moment when an actor switches up from scene-stealer to star. For 24-year-old Floridian Kiersey Clemons, that moment comes courtesy of new film *Hearts Beat Loud* – in which she acts, sings and generally charms the hell out of everyone (not least the critics at Sundance). The story of a Brooklyn record store owner (Nick Offerman) bonding with his daughter (Clemons) over the music they play together, it's hipster Nick Hornby, buoyed by her soaring vocals and sunny charisma.

An actor since her teens, Clemons is now booked up till 2020, when she'll play Iris West in DC's *Flashpoint*. Before then there's survival horror *Sweetheart* and Zorro update *Z*. Somehow, we can't see her screaming for the man-in-the-mask to save her. "Oh no, no, no," she chides. "I ain't no damsel in distress." As her career blooms, she's enjoying the spoils/strangeness of success – such as having her own, albeit bizarre, merch. "I was online looking to get someone a cardboard cutout of a celebrity they liked," she says, "then I found there was a Kiersey Clemons cardboard cutout, so I ordered that!" Get yours while you can. **Matt Glasby**

HEARTS BEAT LOUD IS OUT NEXT MONTH.

Photograph **Bella Howard** Styling **Jamie Mizrahi** Make-up **Samuel Paul** Hair **Preston Wada** Manicure **Erin Moffett**

It's a gym, but not as you know it

A new breed of exclusive members' clubs put (luxury) health and fitness front and centre. These are the best...

THE LONDON SCENE

The Club at Ten Trinity Square's spa surrounds a 14-metre pool

The Club at Ten Trinity Square

Fitness-only annual membership starts at £2,700 (plus £1,000 joining fee). 10 Trinity Square, EC3. tentrinitysquare.com

Who goes? City slickers.

Work out: Within the former Port Of London Authority HQ, Ten Trinity Square is an elegant members' club with a 165 sq metres gym. There's wood panelling and floor-to-ceiling mirrors, with equipment from upscale manufacturers Matrix and Hammer Strength, plus a yoga room.

And relax: The spa – with its sauna, steam and treatment rooms – is centred around a 14-metre pool, plus there's a separate vitality pool and hammam. Male-focused treatments include "skin fitness", which uses ultrasound to purify your pores.

Club rooms: A library, bar and the Michelin-starred La Dame De Pic.

Star feature: The Château Latour Discovery Room is the first of its kind outside France.

The Club & Spa at The Lanesborough

Annual membership from £6,000 (plus £2,000 joining fee). 2 Lanesborough Place, SW1. lanesboroughclubandspa.com

Who goes? The 0.1 per cent.

Work out: Last year, the London stalwart announced a new venture: The Lanesborough Club & Spa. Specialising in wellbeing and spread over 1,672 sq metres, it has a huge fitness facility that offers the lauded training method Bodyism, yoga, spinning, HIIT and more.

And relax: It doesn't have a full swimming pool, but alongside the usual treatment rooms and saunas, there's a hydrotherapy pool, an "experience shower" that uses a cool mist to alleviate muscle pain and a spa butler on hand.

Club rooms: A bar and restaurant specialising in healthy food by Michelin-starred chefs Éric Fréchon and Florian Favario.

Star trainer: James Duigan, the founder of Bodyism.

The Clock

Annual membership £4,740. 42 Wimpole Street, W1. theclock.com

Who goes? Privacy seekers.

Work out: While it has all the trappings of a traditional members' club – it's in a smart, unmarked townhouse with chandeliers and fireplaces – The Clock is almost entirely given over to fitness. Take the music room, for instance, which still has a grand piano but is where the classes are held. The main workout room contains two bespoke multigyms beautifully designed in brass and all sessions are with a personal trainer. Only four members can train at any time.

And relax: There's no spa, but the club does have a kitchen that turns out breakfast and lunch for post-exercise wind-downs.

Club rooms: Farmhouse-style kitchen and elegant drawing room.

Star trainer: Clock founder Zana Morris.

The Curtain

Annual membership £1,000 (plus £250 joining fee). 45 Curtain Road, EC2. thecurtain.com

Who goes? The hot industries.

Work out: The Titanic-inspired fitness centre, run in collaboration with The Vault Gym, is open all day. Alongside all the cardio and weights equipment, it also offers personal training and a variety of classes, such as the cult spin-meets-rave-session that is Boom Cycle. The crowning glory, however, is the rooftop pool, with its views across the City.

And relax: The spa, where you can get sports and deep-tissue massages, also has a dedicated male area: Men's Society. Here you can get everything from a haircut or wet shave to a facial skincare treatment.

Club rooms: Choice of three restaurants, a coworking space, a screening room and a bar.

Star trainer: Oli Love, trusted by many on the *Sunday Times* Rich List.

Text **Charlie Burton** Photographs **Collection Christophel; Getty Images; Wilson Hennessy; Rex**

THE
SHADES
TO KNOW

Stars in their eyes: The greatest sunglasses in cinema history and where to buy them now

Pre-Scientology Tom Cruise wearing aviators in *Top Gun*; Cary Grant owning tortoiseshell in *North By Northwest*; Steve McQueen putting Persol on the map in *The Thomas Crown Affair*. Strong examples of film stars making sunglasses look cool in their flicks are too numerous to mention, so here, we've selected the five coolest sunglasses in cinematic history to show you how to get the look yourself with this season's frames.
Teo van den Broeke

The Fear And Loathing In Las Vegas aviators
Rockmore sunglasses in brushed silver with yellow-wash gold by **Hackett**, £120. hackett.com

The North By Northwest tortoiseshells
Double-bridge tortoiseshell glasses with transparent spoilers and blue lenses by **Hugo Boss**, £189. At shadestation.co.uk

The Risky Business classics
Black Wayfarers by **Ray-Ban**, £172. ray-ban.com

The Leon round frames
Zolman acetate sunglasses in gold by **Giorgio Armani**, £217. At sunglasshut.com

The Dirty Harry 3-D specs
Rectangular-frame acetate sunglasses in black by **Gucci**, £260. gucci.com

Bottega Veneta

Trousers, £675. Mules, £405. Both by **Bottega Veneta**. bottegaveneta.com

THE TREND REPORT

Fashionista, heel thyself

Too mule for school? We've got good news for you: this summer's footwear trend is back, back, backless

Photographs by **Florian Renner** Styling by **Tony Cook**

From loafers with collapsible heels to old-school mules, backless shoes are big news right now. Gucci started the trend a few seasons back, with the furry Princetown loafers you've probably seen all over Instagram's most stylish feet, and countless other brands have since got in on the act. In reality, a low-slung mule offers a great, easy way to step into summer stylishly. Somewhere between an ultra-smart loafer and a too-hip-to-care pool slide, a pair of Bottega Veneta intrecciato backless slippers teamed with a slim-cut suit will look chic yet casual, while a pair of collapsed-heel espadrilles from Saint Laurent or Jimmy Choo will look the business worn from beach to bar(s). One tip: to avoid sweaty toes ruining the inside of your mules, roll up a pair of invisible socks so they cover only the end of your foot and remain concealed within the mule. Just be sure not to take your shoes off in company: nobody likes a foot condom they can see. **TvdB**

Dolce & Gabbana

Trousers, £2,250 (as part of a suit). Mules, £830. Both by **Dolce & Gabbana**. dolcegabbana.com

Valentino

Trousers by **Valentino**, £590. At Browns. brownsfashion.com. Mules by **Valentino**, £505. At mrporter.com. Socks by **Falke**, £13. falke.com

Gucci

Jeans by **Gucci**, £640. gucci.com. Mules by **Gucci**, £585. At matchesfashion.com

Bag by **Aspinal Of London**, £995. aspinaloflondon.com

Photograph **Pixeleyes** Model **Ashley at Hired Hands**

Travel like a supermodel

David Gandy's new capsule luggage collection with Aspinal Of London will see you through the airport in style

David Gandy is the world's second highest-paid male supermodel – a fact that suggests he knows how to travel in style. Stands to reason, then, that Gandy also knows what he's talking about when it comes to luggage – a case in point being the male-model-turned-fashion-entrepreneur's new "Aerodrome" capsule collection. Consisting of 18 pieces, including a 48-hour bag, a 24-hour bag, a washbag and a natty passport cover, the collection combines lightweight khaki or navy canvas with oiled calfskin leather details. "My inspiration for the design of the collection came from the RAF Spitfire, arguably one of the greatest pieces of British engineering of all time," says Gandy. "All of the individual items are an extension of my own personal aesthetic, where the sophisticated, subtle feel of luxury and heritage meet with modern usability and technology." **TvdB**

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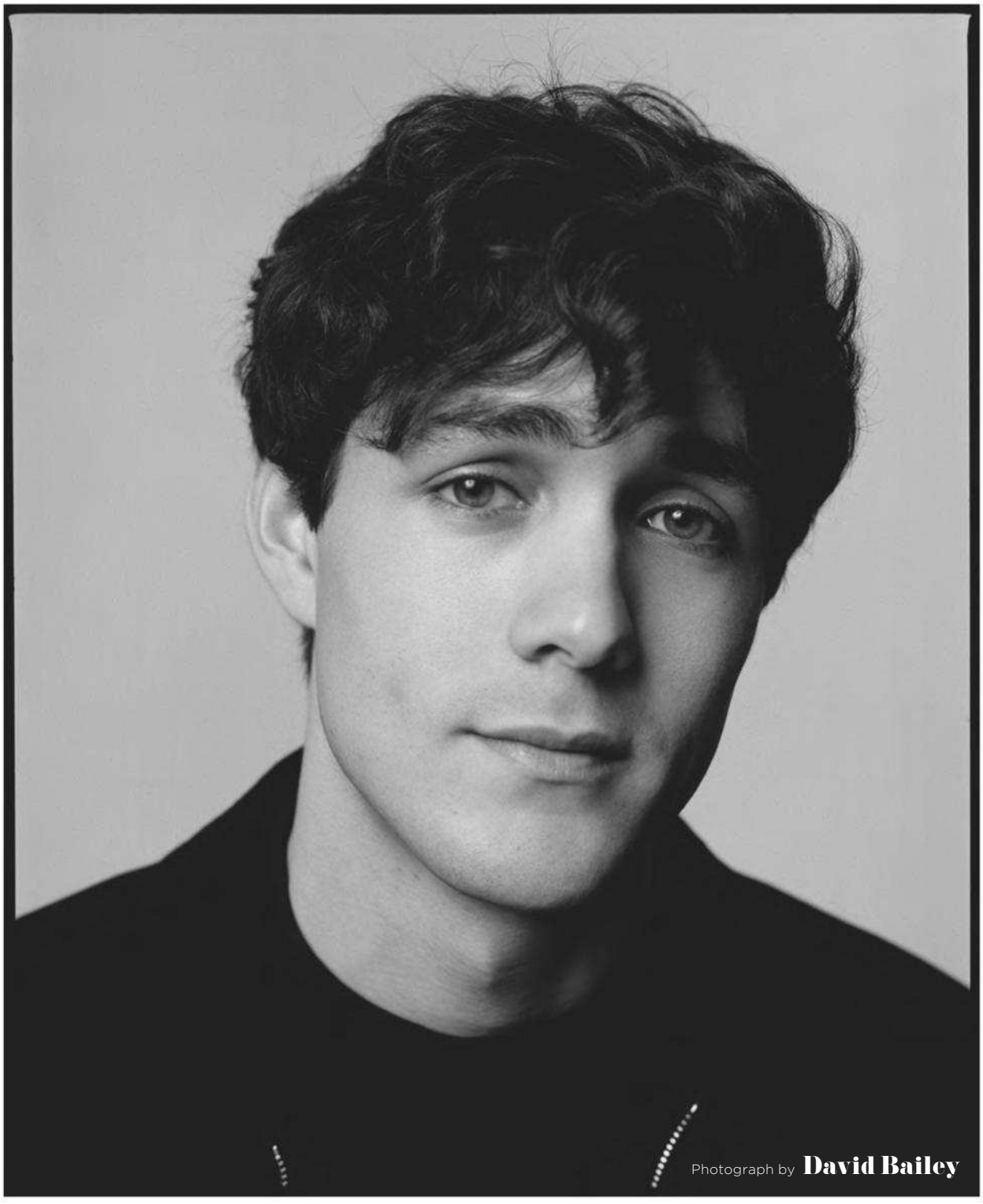


THE ACTOR TO WATCH

Jonah Hauer-King

When you're an Oxbridge-educated actor with a cut-glass voice and Cumberbatch curls, there's a real danger you'll be typecast as the "British gent". That's not lost on Jonah Hauer-King. "I don't want a niche," says the 22-year-old, the son of restaurant impresario Jeremy King. "I'm trying to keep every role as different as possible." And how. Discovered aged 16 while performing at the Edinburgh Fringe, he cut his teeth in the West End opposite Kenneth Branagh in *The Entertainer*; played Laurie in the BBC's *Little Women*; ticked off a big studio picture with Sony's *A Dog's Way Home*; and has parts lined up in a run of upcoming independent films. He'll play a Siberian immigrant in *Ashes In The Snow* and a pimp in *Postcards From London*. Does he worry about his father watching the latter? "There are no sex scenes, thankfully," says Hauer-King, laughing. "I just wear electric-blue suits with a lot of mesh." One thing's certain: a typical British gent would never be caught dead in mesh. **Eleanor Halls** ASHES IN THE SNOW IS OUT THIS YEAR.

Grooming **Declan Sheils**

THE WORLD CUP

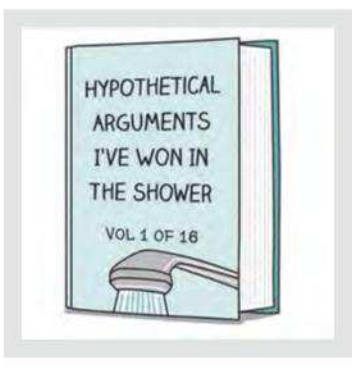
Crunch time

With a high number of star footballers nursing pre-World Cup injuries, who will be match-fit and, erm, does it even matter?

	Neymar Brazil	Harry Kane England	Manuel Neuer Germany	Gylfi Sigurdsson Iceland	Juan Cuadrado Colombia
Injury type	**Metatarsal fracture**	**Ankle ligament damage**	**Recurrent metatarsal fracture**	**Knee injury**	**Groin injury**
When did it happen?	**25 February** vs Marseille.	**11 March** vs Bournemouth.	**Nearly a year ago** vs Real Madrid. Last played for Bayern Munich in September.	**10 March** vs Brighton.	**23 December** vs Roma. Or at least that was his last appearance...
Impact on team (out of 5)	4	4	2	5	2
Quote/ unquote	"Rushing someone's recovery – we don't do that." **Brazilian manager, Tite**	"Will do everything I can to get back out there asap." **Kane on Twitter**	"In my opinion, nothing stands in the way of my World Cup participation." **Neuer**	"I have not had any setbacks, I am off the crutches and out of the brace and almost back to walking normally." **Sigurdsson**	"A period of about 30 days' rest [has been] foreseen as necessary before he returns." **Official Juventus statement**
Recovery likelihood	**Touch and go** Brazil's first game is 17 June and it can take three months to fully recover from an injured metatarsal.	**Fairly likely** If all has gone to plan, he should have returned to first-team training for Tottenham.	**Likely** Is already back on the training pitch with 90 per cent fitness. But there's still a possibility of the injury recurring.	**High** It would be remarkable for this type of knee injury to keep him out of contention.	**High** Recently began training again at Juventus.
World Cup precedent	**David Beckham 2002** Becks made a speedy two-month recovery.	**Michael Ballack 2010** The German midfielder was injured a month before the World Cup, so couldn't play.	**None** Neuer would be the first goalkeeper to miss a World Cup due to a metatarsal injury.	**Marco Van Basten 1994** The striker was sidelined and Holland went out in the quarters.	**Alessandro Nesta 2006** A groin injury ruled the iconic Italian defender out of the final against France.
Curse factor	**Low** The last time Brazil had an injured star at the World Cup was Zico in 1986.	**High** England's World Cup history is riddled with ruinous injuries.	**Low** Germany have never been badly hampered by fitness issues.	**Low** This will be Iceland's first ever World Cup finals.	**Medium** Injury kept striker Radamel Falcao out of the 2014 Colombian team.

+The Insta classics

Happy-snap your Instagram feed by following the 'grammers behind three posts we hit like on this month



@moistbuddha

@fuckjerry

@friendofbae

By **Alex Wickham**

THE RUMOUR MILL

It's easy to mock the Matt Hancock app, a Facebook-style social network inexplicably based around the life of the culture secretary. But I can reveal it has celebrity backing: Stephen Fry is one of its most active users. The comedian has a famously difficult relationship with Twitter – perhaps Matt Hancock is the place to go to avoid the trolls?

Tory MP Damian Collins, scourge of Facebook and Twitter, has secured impressive publicity for his investigations into Russia, social media and Brexit; high-profile trips to the US; and grandstanding at select committees back home. But does he have an ulterior motive? "Damian thinks he can be leader and is not wasting his platform," tips an MP.

How to know if a minister has ambitions for higher office? When they email other MPs asking if they'd like an official photo together. Defence secretary Gavin Williamson keeps a £400 digital SLR camera in his office. "Start keeping an eye on leadership election spending," jokes a camera-shy colleague.

Corbynista MP Chris Williamson is tireless in his efforts to promote Jezza on TV and radio, but like every diva he has his own special requirements. Williamson has been demanding producers not only give him a full vegan breakfast, but also a copy of the communist *Morning Star* before each paper review. Takes all sorts.

Photographs **Getty Images**

Clash pad

Instead of investing in one statement piece, this year it's about filling your whole room with them. So go on, be bold, and let all your picks fight for attention

Edited by **Aaron Callow** Styling by **Maurizio Pellizzoni**

THE INTERIORS UPGRADE

1 Sculpture, £3,600. At Talisman London. talismanlondon.com **2** Chandelier, £2,750. At Talisman London. talismanlondon.com **3** Towel rail by **Drummonds**, £3,850. drummonds-uk.com. Towels by **The White Company**, from £22 each. thewhitecompany.com **4** Chair, £6,400 a pair. At Talisman London. talismanlondon.com **5** Sculpture, £3,600. At Talisman London. talismanlondon.com **6** Bath, £2,850. Mixer, £2,245. Shelf, £465. All by **Drummonds**. drummonds-uk.com **7** Wallpaper by **Cole & Son**, £100 a roll. cole-and-son.com

+ Inside information

From vertigo-inducing zigzags to glamorous metallics, get the look with our pick of the trend

Light by **Poliform**, £360. poliformuk.com

Stool by **Libra**, £499. thelibracompany.co.uk

Radiator by **Bisque**, from £426. bisque.co.uk

Side table by **Andrew Martin**, £250. andrewmartin.co.uk

Rug by **Stepevi**, £1,950. stepevi.com

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Jonas Blue

The superstar DJ hits the decks in remixed classics that go from club to red carpet without missing a beat

MY STYLE

Photograph by **Simon Webb**

Wish list

Jacket

"It's amazing to see artists with their own brands. I'm a big fan of Drake's Ovo."
By Ovo x Canada Goose, £785. canadagoose.com

Jeans

"When performing, I do a lot of jumping around, so I need denim that I can move in."
By Citizens Of Humanity, £290. citizensofhumanity.com

Wish list

Boots

"I saw these fresh off the Balmain runway. The zip sets them apart. As with my music, I like things that are exciting but don't stand out too much." **£710. balmain.com**

Wish list

Watch

"This is one of the only watches I've ever wanted. I'm waiting as I want it to be really special when I buy it – probably when I've finished the album and it's released."
Day Date watch by Rolex, £24,950. rolex.com

Jacket

"For me, a bomber is always the main attraction – I have about 40. This Givenchy one is smart enough to wear on a red carpet but comfortable enough to keep on if I'm DJing at an afterparty."
£2,430. At matchesfashion.com

T-shirt

"My DJ uniform is high-tops and a great T-shirt from Acne. Their designs are plain but top quality and go well beneath a standout jacket."
£100. At matchesfashion.com

Wish list

Jacket

"Off-White's varsities are the best. I've already got one in black and white but I love the look of this version.Orange is my favourite colour."
£1,445. At Browns. brownsfashion.com

Trainers

"On stage, my high-tops never come off, so I love them for that reason. I also probably have 100 pairs of Nike Jordans."
By Giuseppe Zanotti, £640. At mrporter.com

Text **Kathleen Johnston** Grooming **Julia Wren**

VISIT GQ'S VERO CHANNEL FOR MORE. *VERO.CO*

Link 300 by JBL

£249. jbl.com

First things first: JBL's Link 300 is about as attractive as it sounds, which is to say not very. Running off Google Assistant, it packs some impressive power – two 25w speakers; one 89mm woofer; one 20mm tweeter – but perhaps lacks nuance. It can be linked with its waterproof little brothers, the Link 20 and 10, and it's handy for the shower, but can't optimise the output in relation to the room. Good but not great.

Home by Google

£129. store.google.com

Aside from its affordable price, the Home has another major selling point: its Google Assistant software is powered by the company's almighty search technologies, which means if you ask it a question – where to go for dinner, say, and how long your journey there will be – it will give you a dependable answer. Plus, as it continues to integrate more Google apps, its usefulness will only grow.

THE LAB TEST

Meet your digital butler

Want to book a cab, turn on the lights or listen to the headlines? Smart speakers, with their AI voice recognition software, can do all that and more. This new breed also has decent audio credentials, so they might just put your old music setup – and switches – out of a job

Photograph by **Matthew Beedle** Edited by **Charlie Burton & Stuart McGurk**

HomePod by Apple

£319. apple.com

The Siri-enabled HomePod sounds spine-tinglingly good. The internal A8 chip distributes sound among the speaker's seven tweeters to shape the performance for any location. You'll need an Apple device and Apple Music account to use it and it currently doesn't offer multiroom, but in terms of audio playback... *wow*.

One by Sonos

From £199. sonos.com

For less than £200, the Sonos One is incredible value for money and also the most future-proofed. Out of the box it comes with Amazon's Alexa and promises a future update, allowing you to choose Google Assistant too. Add to that the option to stereo-pair with a second device or Sonos kit for a full multiroom experience and the One is hard to beat.

Echo by Amazon

£80. amazon.co.uk

Amazon's first-generation Echo was utilitarian to say the least. Sure, the Alexa AI worked and the sound was decent, but it looked like a painted Pringles tube. For the second iteration, Amazon has gone for a look that blends in rather than sticks out – almost half the height and with the option of fabric or wood finishes. The sound still won't compare to the likes of the Sonos, but then neither does the price.

Build a Woah! Record Library

#16 Hybrid Theory

By **Linkin Park** (Warner Bros, 2000)

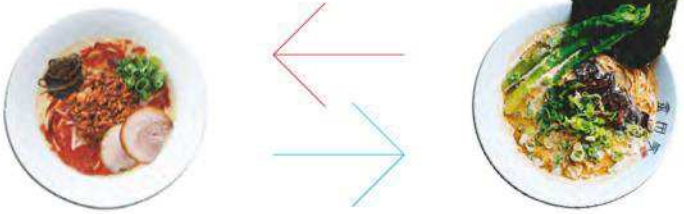
The vinyl revival remains in rude health. **Dylan Jones** selects an overlooked classic to hunt out next time you're flicking through the crates...

You're driving across Southern California (Linkin Park's home state), it's late and there's a big black sky stretching from the hood to the trunk. All around you are the tempered sounds of nu- and rap metal bouncing off the car walls, rattling the CDs in the pocket of the driver's door and making you think of the beach. Or your significant other. Or both. Actually, the thrashing has stopped and you're listening to "My December", a bonus track that appears on the special edition of Linkin Park's 2000 debut album, *Hybrid Theory*. Known for their junior-Limp Bizkit nu-metal "chops", their collaboration with Jay-Z and for being the poster boys of hard-core noughties rock, this – in truth, a rather traditional six-string ballad – is their very best song. It's unrepresentative of their early work, but a taste of where they would end up. If Lynyrd Skynyrd had started making records 30 years later, this is what they would have sounded like.

The website hometracked.com identified the typical Linkin Park song structure. 1) Quiet intro: each song has a relatively muted two-measure intro. 2) Instrumental kicker: the full band come in together and play two or four high-energy measures, usually instrumental. 3) Quiet verse: the song eases off, heightening the dynamic contrast between sections. 4) Heavy chorus: usually the same chords established in the kicker, with singer Chester Bennington screaming over the top. "My December" is somewhat different. Not much, mind, but enough. And it still sounds good in a car if you're driving around Santa Monica at night, especially at Christmas. And especially if you're thinking about the beach and what you might do when you get there.

+Augment your life

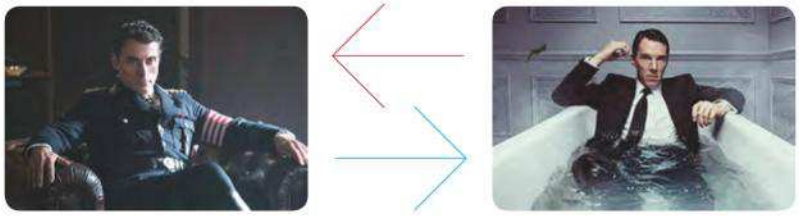
Three substitutions to make this month



Ditch
Ippudo

Slurp ramen at
Kanada-Ya

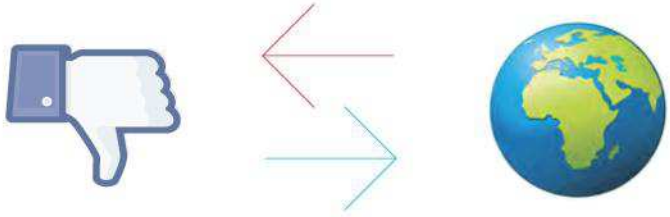
Finally, London is catching up with New York when it comes to real ramen – the kind where the creamy bone broth has spent days simmering. But one stands above all others: Kanada-Ya. The only problem being, the original on London's St Giles High Street was tiny and often had an hour's queue. But their beautiful new restaurant in Islington – praise the ramen gods! – can seat as many as 55 diners. **35 Upper Street, London N1. kanada-ya.com**



Turn off
The Man In The High Castle

Turn on
Patrick Melrose

Still watching Amazon's alt-reality Nazi drama *The Man In The High Castle*? Oh, so *you're* the one. For everyone else, sate period drama longings with the arrival of *Patrick Melrose*, a Benedict Cumberbatch-starring Sky Atlantic adaptation of Edward St Aubyn's addiction-filled novels. Having ping-ponged between the larger-than-life Holmes and Doctor Strange, here Cumberbatch takes on the tender terrors of the everyday. **Starts on 13 May.**



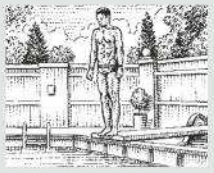
Delete
Facebook

See
The world

Now we know Cambridge Analytica has allegedly had access to hundreds of thousands of people's Facebook data, there's no better time to delete that blue blob on your phone, even if it's just for a while. A study way back in 2014 revealed eleven million millennials had left Facebook in three years and a 2016 Ofcom study revealed a third of adult UK internet users had enjoyed a digital detox at some point in the last 12 months. Join them. **Stuart McGurk**

BRING YOUR 'A' GAME

No41
Dive into a pool with finesse
As the mercury starts to move, we consult Olympic medallist Tom Daley on how to pull off a pool dive that will draw plaudits...

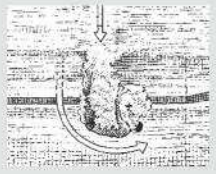


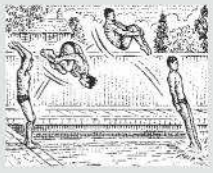
1 Get the stance
Having made sure the pool has a depth of at least three metres, stand on the edge of the board with your big toes just over the edge. Now jump from both feet simultaneously.

2 Hit the pike
Imagine that you're jumping up and over a waist-height fence. As you do so, bring your arms up into a T. At the apex, do a "pike" (as pictured) then squeeze the glutes to fling your legs upwards.

3 Clasp your hands
Enter the water with your hands clasped as shown. The idea is to create as big a surface area as possible, with your arms squeezing tightly against your ears.

4 The rip entry
Once the water is up to your ears, flick your wrists apart and open your arms up into a T. Then, as your shins go under, hinge at the hips for a forward roll. This process minimises splash.





5 Nailed a basic dive?
Now learn to do a simple somersault. Pretend you're throwing a boulder above your head as you jump, then go into a cannonball-like "tuck". You'll turn over and land on your feet.

Illustrations **Dave Hopkins; Dale Edwin Murray**

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drinkaware.co.uk for the facts

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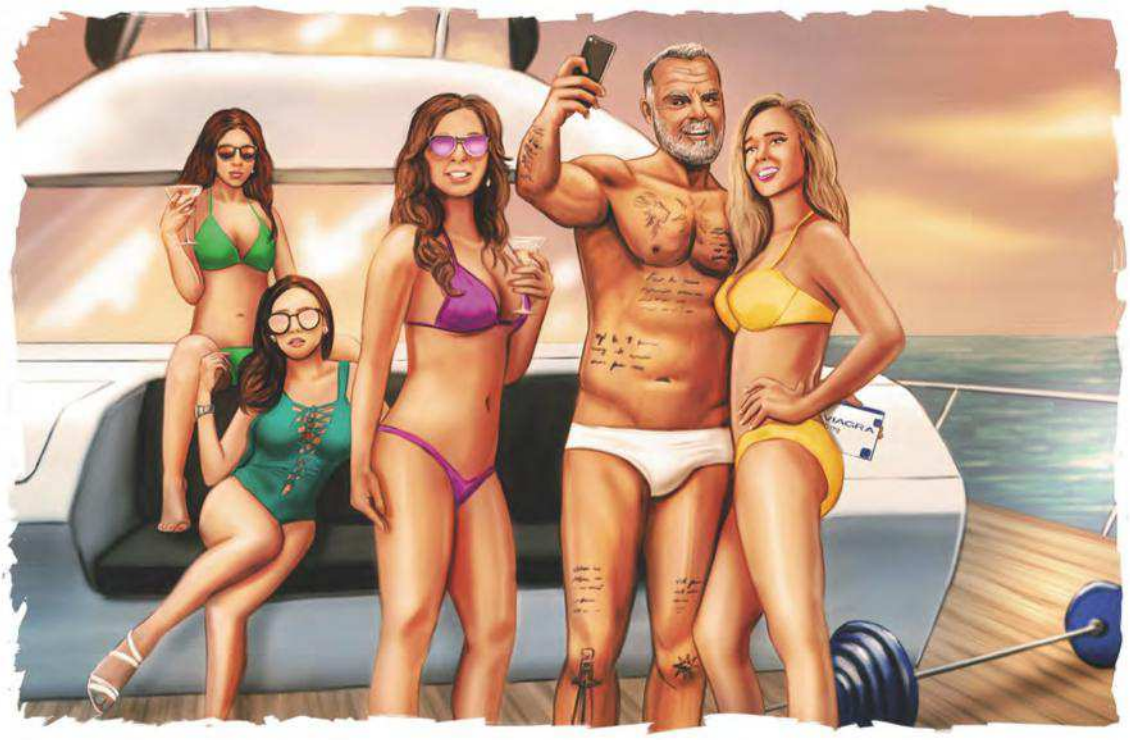
THE PARTY PAGE

Britain is booming

It was all going on at the *GQ* x Warner Music Brit Awards afterparty: Anne-Marie playing her biggest hits in the main room; Cîroc cocktails flowing freely; Idris Elba and Pete Tong taking to the decks; model and chef Isaac Carew tearing up the dance floor; Dua Lipa and Jorja Smith celebrating in the VIP area... No wonder it stayed packed until the bitter end. Kathleen Johnston

Photographs David M Benett/Getty Images



How to spot... the 'thirst trap' sexagenarian

When it comes to fishing for Insta gratification, older doesn't always mean wiser

Story by **Jonathan Heaf** Illustration by **Sam Gilbey**

THE SOCIAL STEREOTYPE

Can you just not wait to get old? OK, not so old and riddled with dementia that you can't control such things as manual gear sticks, the Netflix menu bar or bodily functions, but old enough not to care whether you've got matching socks on as you leave the house. Or not to worry about ordering pasta as a starter and main. (In Italy, 20-year-olds have been doing this with élan for centuries, by the way.) Or old enough not to feel like you need to be polite to work colleagues or the Ocado man. (Actually, always be polite to the Ocado man. He's delivering your "big shop" because you're too busy playing *Candy Crush* on your phone to do it yourself.)

One of the greatest things, surely, about hitting 60 – even fiftysomething – is not having to bother with social media. At all. Anyone who is still posting images of their posh hotel breakfast, a terrible piece of conceptual art or a celebrity hairstyle that gives them all the feels* by the time they've got fewer years left on this planet than they've already lived, needs to prioritise their bucket lists, IMHO*. So what's with these fifth-wave dudes currently flooding IG, bodies all pumped up like those social media-friendly inflatable unicorns, Justin Bieber's lyrics translated badly into Sanskrit and tattooed onto their abs, while their wardrobes are a cross between a Vegas magician and a role-playing costume worn by the sexy bad guys from a 2003 Christina Aguilera music video? Such geriatric narcissism is almost too much to witness and although men such as Gianluca Vacchi and his hot grandpa exploits play well on the feeds, one can't help but think his life must be as empty as the box of Viagra he has presumably just necked.

"But 60 is the new 30," you cry, as your four-year-old watches his grandfather twerk on the deck of a superyacht with a brace of glamour models barely old enough to buy the Espresso Martinis they're guzzling. Maybe you're right. Maybe this sounds too much like ageism and we should let the oldies run amok like an army of wrinkly spornosexuals, lubed up and writhing to Ed Sheeran ballads under a Mexican sun. But something about it doesn't feel right. Like Dwayne Johnson in a dress. Or Marmite on waffles.

When you reach a respectable age, you should be respectable. Youth might be wasted on the young, but that's the point of youth. To waste one's time. Being older, one should have found something more learned to do than go to the gym three times a day, be impressed by expensive bottles of tequila and worry whether, as a term, lit* is still lit. (It isn't.) Bleaching your hair and showing your mankles to the world after the age of 50 isn't punk. It's sad. Admittedly, not as sad as sitting in your own urine in a care home while trying to remember the direct dial for Dignitas, but still. Remember, spending time on social media is the exact opposite of giving zero fucks. Indulge yourself, go wild and dial down the super-sized pretension. After all, old fella, you've earned it.

*ALL CRINGE-WORTHY MILLENNIAL TERMS USED HERE WITH HEAVY IRONY BY THE AUTHOR. HE'S 38 AND OLD ENOUGH TO KNOW BETTER. SORRY NOT SORRY.

GQ BAND O-MATIC

Do something different this month – tune in to these new sounds...

Into: Mac DeMarco?
Try: Courtney Barnett
Second album of slacker rock from the Melbourne-based singer-songwriter, packed full of wit and personal insight.
***Tell Me How You Really Feel* is out on 18 May.**

Into: Brian Eno?
Try: Jon Hopkins
Mercury Prize-nominated electronic producer from Surrey who connects the dots between urgent techno, transcendent choirs and solo piano.
***Singularity* is out now.**

Into: Primal Scream?
Try: Peace
Fêted indie four-piece from Worcester who went out to write in a National Trust farmhouse and returned with a great record.
***Kindness Is The New Rock And Roll* is out now.**

Into: Father John Misty?
Try: Lord Huron
LA-based folkie Ben Schneider is adept at writing both delicate songs of love and mortality and adrenaline-pumping garage tunes. **Kevin Perry**
***Vide Noir* is out now.**

THE TAILOR TREND

Why you need a pastel suit

Ditch your plain navy two-piece and invest in an ultralight hue this summer

There was a moment during Haider Ackermann's second collection for Berluti, shown last summer in the extraordinary Monnaie De Paris, that the pastel suit officially became a thing. It was when model Willow Barrett slinked across the cobbled stone courtyard of the 16th-century building wearing a yellow double-breasted silk suit that looked like the love child of sunshine and syrup. Countless other brands followed suit (so to speak), from Ermenegildo Zegna – where the suits were terracotta hued – to Richard James, where pastel silks were flavour of the moment. The trend was then affirmed when, back in January, John Galliano sent out an extraordinary bias-cut blue silk suit as part of his AW18 collection. David Bowie was a fan of a light summer suit. He wore a royal-blue one to perform at the Hammersmith Apollo in 2002 (he also wore a floral silk jumpsuit in the early Seventies, but that's another story). Bryan Ferry performed in a silk Louis Vuitton tuxedo at Coachella in 2014. Harry Styles wore a bespoke Alexander McQueen suit in lilac paisley to the Aria Awards last year and if we had our way Prince Harry would be wearing a pastel suit to get married this month. To help you get in on the trend, these are three of the best out there. **TvdB**

Photographs by **Florian Renner**

Styling by **Tony Cook**

Peach
Suit, £3,290. Trainers, £380. Both by **Ermenegildo Zegna Couture**. T-shirt by **Ermenegildo Zegna**, £120. zegna.us

Sky
Suit, £1,350. Shoes, £430. Both by **Canali**. canali.com. Top by **Cos**, £49. cosstores.com

Sage
Suit, £845. Shirt, £195. Both by **Richard James**. richard-james.com. Shoes by **Russell & Bromley**, £175. russellandbromley.com

Grooming **Lou Copperwaite at S Management** Model **Antonino Russo at Premier**

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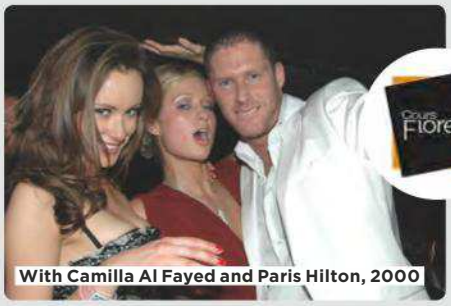
THE
ENTREPRENEUR

Jean-David Malat

As the JD Malat Gallery launches in London, its influential founder reveals the secrets of his success



With Camilla Al Fayed and Paris Hilton, 2000

Celebrity matters

"I hosted weekly parties for Jitrois to raise its profile. I was out every night. It was important to make famous friends. The more celebrities wear your clothes, the more business you have."

Sotheby's Institute Of Art, London

Learn on the job

"I don't think the Sotheby's course was worth it. I learnt more from experience. For me, success came from connecting with people and going to auctions and exhibitions, rather than through academia."

The new JD Malat Gallery will open on 30 Davies Street, London W1

Based London
Age 43

EDUCATION

1992 to 1993
Lycée Van Gogh, Ermont, France

1993 to 1995
Cours Florent drama school, Paris, France

CAREER IN BRIEF

1993 to 1998
Actor with Théâtre Des Loges

1998 to 1999
Sold trinkets in Paris and Los Angeles

1999
Sales assistant at Jitrois, Rue Saint-Honoré, Paris

2000
Director at Jitrois, Rue Saint-Honoré

2001 to 2005
Director at Jitrois, Sloane Street, London

2005 to 2006
Took a course at Sotheby's Institute Of Art, London

2005 to 2017
Director at Opera Gallery, London

May 2018
JD Malat Gallery opens on Davies Street, London

Ditch the arrogance

"There are so many arrogant, snobby people in this business. They achieve success and then they become arrogant. But what about when things go wrong? You have to be nice to people."

Milk the party circuit

"As I became better known in the acting world, I was invited to many parties where I met a lot of people. It's how I met the famous designer Jean-Claude Jitrois, who would eventually give me a job in his shop on Rue Saint-Honoré."

Parisian designer Jean-Claude Jitrois

Find a niche

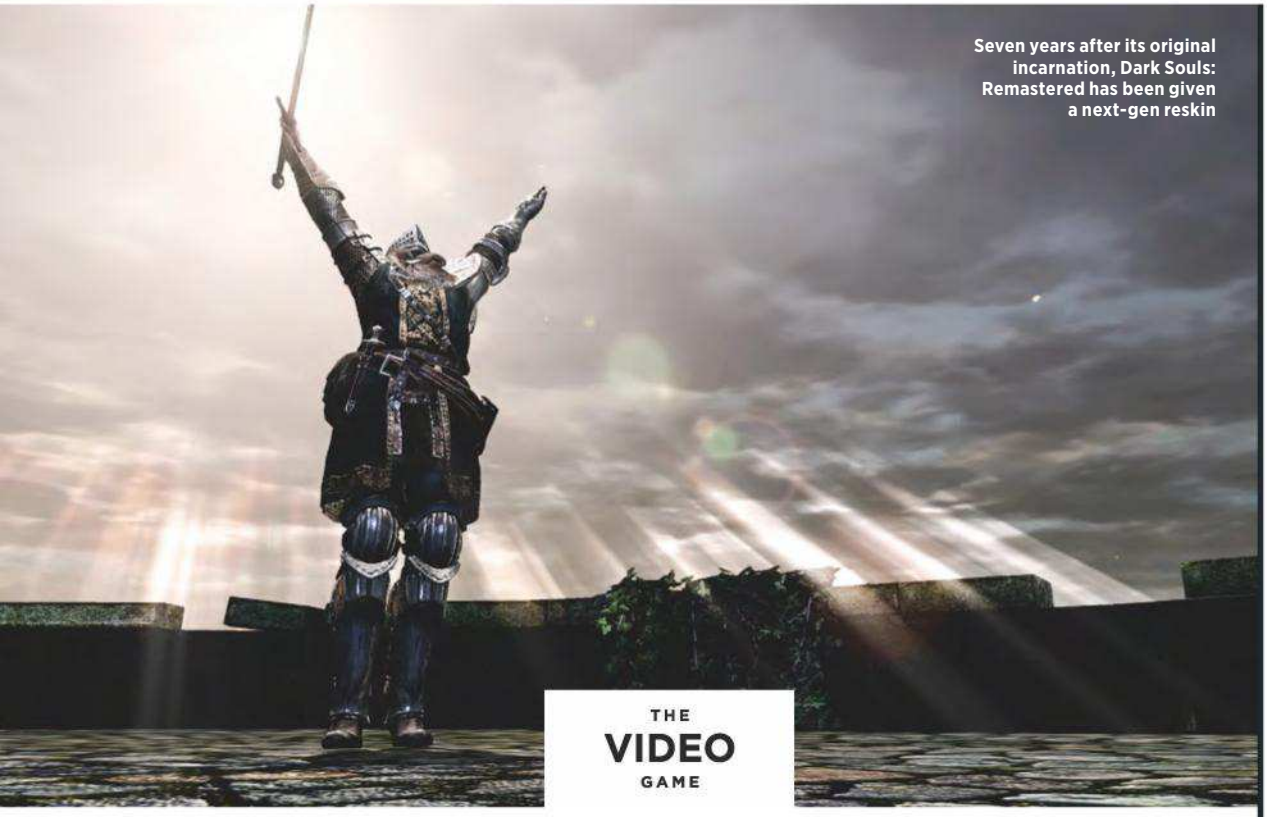
"We were selling Limoges porcelain to Americans in Paris. I realised there was a market for this in the US. I moved to LA for three months and sold 400 pieces door-to-door. My accent meant people were welcoming."

Jean-David Malat uses his Instagram feed as a resource for finding buyers

Get on Instagram

"Instagram is a great place to sell pieces. There'll be a lot of requests once I put a piece online. Without social media you're not visible. It helps the business to become international – you can be in London or China."

Text **Eleanor Halls** Photograph **Instagram/@jeandavidmalat**



Seven years after its original incarnation, Dark Souls: Remastered has been given a next-gen reskin

THE VIDEO GAME

Dark Souls and the beauty of the near impossible

Save, die, reload: gaming's most rewarding challenge rises again to deliver another exercise in masochistic accomplishment

When he was a child, Hidetaka Miyazaki would imagine stories to accompany the illustrations in the English-language fantasy books he borrowed from the library but was unable to read. Through this curious hobby Miyazaki learned not only how to build a story from the scantest of clues, but also the power of enigma in fiction. These lessons are clear in the Japanese game director's work, which is brooding, strange, comic and inescapably beguiling. *Dark Souls*, his most celebrated and now newly remastered masterpiece, is full of fantasy cliché – crumbling castles, weary knights, chipped swords and furious dragons – but, through the power of the unsaid (there are no great Tolkien soliloquies here), the sum gains a mystical freshness.

When *Dark Souls* debuted in 2011 it was about as far from the churning mainstream of gung-ho power fantasies as it's possible to trek. Here you play not as a gun-toting marine but as a loin-clothed wretch (till you find some armour, at least), skittering through sewers and forests with little more than a club and a tatty shield for protection. *Everything* is out to get you. From ten-foot wolves to fat rats to spectral kings to tinkling skeletons, the horrors that lurk in *Dark Souls*' shadows pursue you with night-terror singlemindedness. Your only refuge are the bonfires that punctuate the unforgiving world, rare points of safety to heal.

Unsurprisingly, it's a game with a reputation for difficulty. Stabbing at the buttons will lead to inevitable failure. The game forces you to ace the feints and lunges of armed combat to prevail. Where other games flatter their players with wish fulfilment, *Dark Souls'* is a brutal commander – but one whose teachings lead to a genuine sense of accomplishment.

This month's update is like a renovation of a tumbledown building. A fresh coat of pixels allows us not only to discover the true form of what was always there, but also to rediscover the rare thrill of a game that asks players to master the near impossible before rewarding them for their effort. **Simon Parkin**

DARK SOULS: REMASTERED IS OUT ON 25 MAY FOR PC, PS4, XBOX ONE AND NINTENDO SWITCH.

THE POWER LUNCH

LAYLOW

Some restaurants trade on the charade that they're a "best-kept secret" – despite inviting every food blogger in town to write them up. Laylow, however, is the real deal. True to its name, it doesn't actively do any PR, the website comprises simply a menu and contact details and it's hidden down an unassuming street in West London, right by the Trellick Tower. Yet the fact that this members' club is run by Bella Freud and her partner, the artist Taz Fustok – who have also built a nightclub downstairs – should give you a sense of the vibe inside. The dining room is a full-on scene, guests double-glancing around the tables on arrival to spy who else is in and to size up their wardrobes. Unusually for such a hotspot, it's also very much a place to eat. The Ibérico pork pluma, for instance, is sensational, as is the hot smoked salmon. But you didn't hear about it from us, OK?

The power table is No134. 10 Golborne Road, London W1. 020 8969 6000. laylow.co.uk

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LONDON

SUMMER 2018 NOW AVAILABLE
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Watch the film at **dunelondon.com/SS18**

+ Don't miss Killer Joe

at Trafalgar Studios, 14 Whitehall, London SW1

Orlando Bloom stars as a policeman moonlighting as a contract killer. It showed Matthew McConaughey in a brand-new light when he took on the film role. Will it do the same for Bloom? 19 MAY - 18 AUGUST.

GQ NAVIGATOR

Diarise these!

From books to art shows via your next television binge, get ahead of the water-cooler chat and set your cultural compass to this month's pole stars...

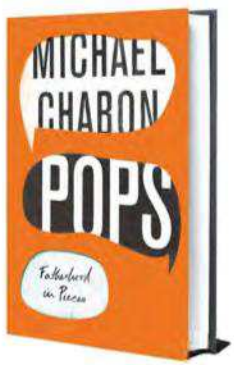
+ For the nightstand

Design As An Attitude
by Alice Rawsthorn

In an age of political, economic and ecological flux, design thinking is helping to solve international crises and reshape failing systems. OUT THIS MONTH.

Warlight
by Michael Ondaatje

The author of *The English Patient* releases his first novel in seven years: a tale of two young orphans growing up in post-war London. OUT ON 8 MAY.



Pops: Fatherhood In Pieces
by Michael Chabon

A collection of essays focusing on the meaning of fatherhood. Its centrepiece is a moving and funny reflection on accompanying his son to Paris' men's fashion week. OUT ON 15 MAY.

Last Stories
by William Trevor

John Banville called him "one of the great short-story writers". William Trevor's final collection, written prior to his death in 2016, only supports the theory. OUT ON 24 MAY.

+ Listen to

Dirty Computer
by Janelle Monáe

Bolstered by her new bona fides as an actor and activist, plus studio input from Prince, Monáe's third concept album of questing sci-fi soul should be her much-deserved breakthrough. OUT NOW.

Knock Knock
by DJ Koze

Originally a techno DJ, Koze now does pretty much everything. With vocalists including Justin Vernon and Róisín Murphy, *Knock Knock* has enough freewheeling exuberance to rival The Avalanches. OUT ON 25 MAY.

Tranquility Base Hotel & Casino
by Arctic Monkeys

Having matured from teenage sensations into Britain's last truly international rock stars, five years after the groove-driven *AM*, the stakes are high. **Dorian Lynskey** OUT ON 11 MAY.

+ Art

Shape Of Light
at Tate Modern

This landmark exhibition shows how since the 1910s, abstract art and photography have been inseparable. UNTIL 14 OCTOBER.

+ In cinemas

Solo: A Star Wars Story

Pre-Rebellion adventures with Han and Chewbacca. Here's hoping the film is less troubled than its production process. OUT ON 25 MAY.

Submergence

James McAvoy is a British agent undercover in Somalia; Alicia Vikander is a bio-mathematician on a deep-sea diving project. Will they, won't they? OUT ON 18 MAY.

Deadpool 2

Ryan Reynolds is back as the anarchic, ironic, fourth-wall-breaking superhero, whose first outing became (unexpectedly) one of the highest-grossing films of all time. OUT ON 16 MAY.

Anon

In a dystopia where the government has eliminated privacy in an effort to fight crime, Amanda Seyfried is a hacker taking on the system. OUT ON 11 MAY.

+ Watch

Humans on Channel 4

After the last series expanded *Humans*' scope and scale in unexpected ways, the third is here at last. Expect tense storytelling and big ideas. OUT THIS MONTH.

+ Spied

An Evening With David Sedaris

Arch essayist David Sedaris is touring the UK with readings from his new collection, *Calypso*. As *Entertainment Weekly* once put it: "Sedaris ain't the preeminent humorist of his generation by accident."

10 - 25 JULY.

On The Run II

Jay-Z knows the power of a joint tour. As he prepares to hit the road with Beyoncé once again, an appraisal of his past co-headers...

6 - 16 JUNE.

Jay-Z and Kanye West (Watch The Throne Tour, 2011-12)
Accolades: The second highest-grossing hip hop tour in history.
Controversy: Before it started, the pair were said to have fallen out over production values.

Jay-Z and Eminem (Home & Home Tour, 2010)
Accolades: Everyone from Drake to 50 Cent and Rihanna to Nicki Minaj showed up as special guests.
Controversy: Fans were disappointed about the tour's four-date brevity.

Jay-Z and R Kelly (Best Of Both Worlds Tour, 2004)
Accolades: Not many.
Controversy: Tensions between the two performers resulted in the tour being scrapped, leaving fans enraged and lawyers busy. GQ

Photographs Amanda Friedman; Getty Images

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MEN OF THE YEAR 2018

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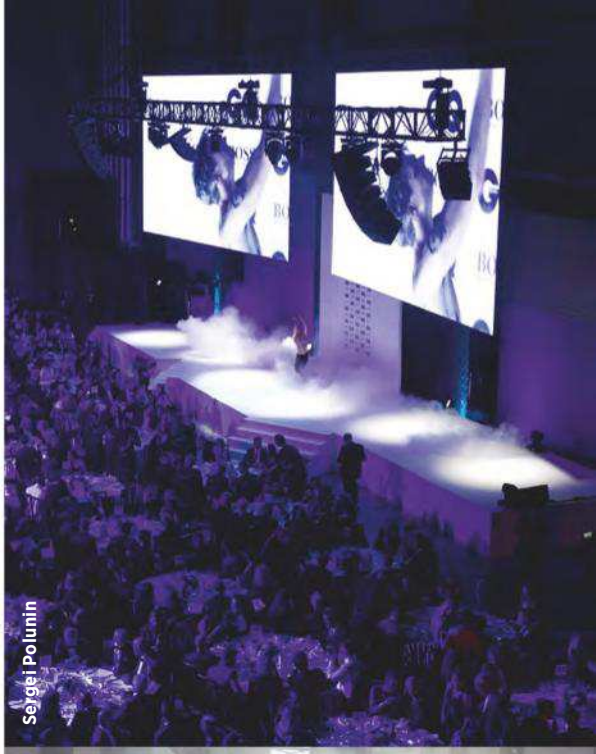
Follow that, right? Last year's 20th anniversary party at Tate Modern took the bar to the top of the Turbine Hall and now we're raising the roof again with the superstar paragons (not paigons) of the past 12 months

The *GQ* Men Of The Year Awards – in part the best party in London, in part a much-deserved celebration of the best and the brightest and in part the best platform to go on stage and call the prime minister a "paigon".

That, after all, was one of the unexpected takeaways last year from a night full of them and the kind of thing that happens when you have a room that mixes grime stars (a certain Stormzy) with politicians (Sadiq Khan winning, Jeremy Corbyn presenting), bad boys of ballet (Sergei Polunin), Netflix child stars (the cast of *Stranger Things*), footballing legends (an England icon in Sir Geoff Hurst, a world icon in Pelé) and roof-raising comics (Steve Coogan and Rob Brydon). Throw in the odd Hollywood Oscar-winner (the indomitable Jared Leto), a boy-band style icon (Zayn Malik), a *Star Wars* hero (the skywalking Mark Hamill) and *voila*: a ceremony that was always set to be the biggest, best, most glamorous and – yes – most talked about in town.

For our 21st Awards – in partnership with Hugo Boss – we won't be attempting the same again… We'll be striving to do it all even better. More sports legends. More people who have single-handedly saved the galaxy. More contenders for the next James Bond.

One thing's for sure: the ceremony, which will take place in the Turbine Hall at the Tate Modern on 5 September, won't go quietly. GQ



Sergei Polunin

Models in Boss

Adwoa Aboah and Poppy Delevingne

Photographs James Mason; Antonio Salgado; Richard Young

MEN OF THE YEAR

Charli XCX

People Just Do Nothing

Annabelle Wallis and Jared Leto

Jodie Harsh

Sadiq Khan and Tinie Tempah

Skepta

Anthony Joshua and Idris Elba

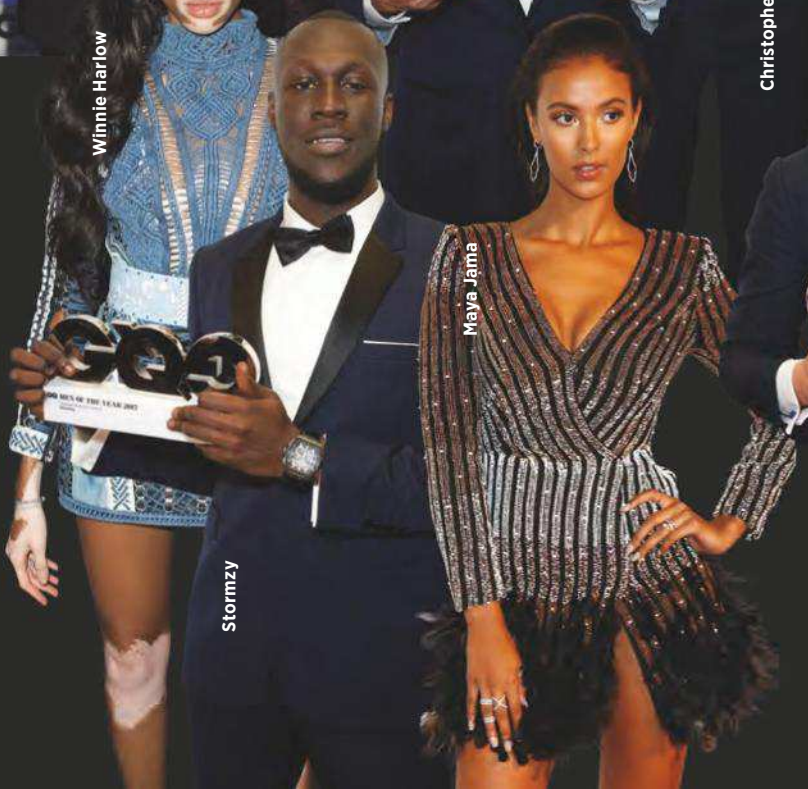
Sir Geoff Hurst

Christopher Ball

Liam Gallagher

Jourdan Dunn

Winnie Harlow


Stormzy

Maya Jama

James Norton

Mark Hamill

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‘TOO

Overnight I became a political personage, seeming to challenge the president as much as his opponents

Photograph Getty Images

FAMOUS'

When GQ's MICHAEL WOLFF released his incredible exposé of DONALD TRUMP'S first year in office, he titled it FIRE AND FURY – but it was another 'F' word that came to define the book as much as its subject. As Wolff explains here, when he and his methods were thrust into the spotlight, he was forced to question who owns 'the truth' when the president – and the world's journalists – came after him

Story by **Michael Wolff** Photograph by **Jessica Kourkounis**

Michael Wolff takes to the stage at the Free Library Of Philadelphia to discuss his tell-all on the inner workings of Trump's White House, 16 January 2018

Several years ago, at one of the biweekly luncheons hosted by *Private Eye*, I sat next to Jemima Khan, the heiress, socialite and ex-girlfriend of Hugh Grant. She was convivially indiscreet about her relationship with Grant – "just a boy from Chiswick" – and dropped a detail that I have cherished since. To the hurdles and impediments and limitations of life, Grant, according to Khan, added a new one: "too famous".

For a long time, I thought of this as a kind of ironic, world-weary and pop-cultural hauteur, a reverse modesty that was uniquely within Grant's character – until recently, when I became too famous.

Fame came for me, courtesy of Donald Trump, like this:

On 3 January, I was getting ready to publish a book about my experiences observing the White House up close for much of Trump's first year in office. I'd achieved, I thought, a breakthrough by nailing the fact that the entirety of Trump's senior staff saw him, as much of the world did, as peculiar and unfit. And I thought my portrait of him was truer to the ludicrousness of the situation than the earnest news media had managed to capture. But, really, with the constant leaks out of the White House, what was left to know? The book's first printing of 150,000 copies seemed aggressive to me. My optimistic publisher, aiming to break Amazon's Top 100 in the first week, had put together a careful publicity rollout that depended on a tight embargo of the book and protection of its juiciest scoops. But that morning the *Guardian*, claiming it had obtained a copy from a friendly bookseller, published some of my hottest stuff. That was dispiriting and the publishing team set a conference call for that afternoon to tally the damage from the broken embargo. Then, though, as I arrived at lunch, I received an email that said the book had risen from the basement to No66 on Amazon's list – not too shabby. Paying the bill, I received another email noting that the book was now No1. Almost immediately thereafter, Trump, through his lawyers, announced he would try to stop the publication of the book and, in addition, sue me for defamation and invasion of privacy, each step the definition of impossibility for an American president: stop the publication of a book, be defamed and have his privacy invaded. On top of that, Trump spent much of the next two weeks venomously denying that we had ever met each other – even though I had sat in the White House on his say-so for seven months and had known him for 20 years. Then, to counter my description of his incoherence, he publicly saw his doctor and took a basic cognitive test so that he might proclaim himself "a stable genius".

To put it mildly, the book flew off the shelves in the US and shortly after around the globe.

To me, ramping up from discreet notoriety in media-minded circles to global selfie fame was only a mild distraction. I'm 64. Too late to change me. It was, additionally, a rueful fame because, no way around it, I'm a beneficiary of Donald Trump's coattails. Still, it is fame and in this resentful age there is no ironic fame, no self-deprecating fame, no neutral fame. Fame demands a value judgment. You are necessarily for or against the famous. Everybody famous is also notorious. Fame, in its most contemporary sense, is about conflict. Trump again.

Overnight I became a political personage, seeming to challenge the president as much as – or more than – any of his overtly political opponents. But much to the media's confusion and disbelief, I continued to repeat that I had little interest in politics. That, in fact, I was interested in Trump precisely because he wasn't a politician. His was a story, to me, not about politics, but about a person who found himself in an unlikely, even preposterous, circumstance. An accidental president, to say the least, as well as a ridiculous one. A worthy dramatic – and comic – subject.

Politics is a literal game. Every word must represent a strict view – or be so abstract as to be meaningless. This perceived necessity to render language as lifeless as possible helped undermine Hillary Clinton's campaign. It has become a given of journalism too: we are >>

Opposite, from top: Wolff discusses Fire And Fury on American daytime talk show The View, 10 January 2018; the book launch at Waterstones Piccadilly, London, 9 January 2018

Fame, having given us Trump, is something that needs to be taxed, reduced, flattened

Photographs Getty Images; Ray Tang/Zuma Press

I find myself ever confronted with the question: 'Is your book 100 per cent true?'

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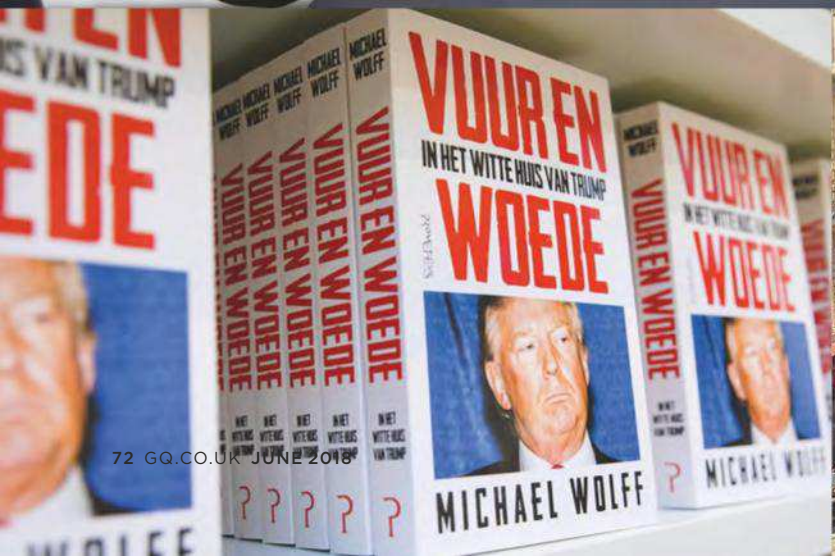
FIRE AND FURY
INSIDE THE TRUMP WHITE HOUSE
MICHAEL WOLFF

Clockwise from top left: Wolff talks Fire And Fury with Die Zeit publisher-editor Josef Joffe (left) in Hamburg, 27 February 2018; the book's international popularity resulted in Japanese, French and Dutch translations; President Trump called Wolff's account 'fake' and fought to halt the book's publication



LE RIVE GAUCHE
LE BEST-SELLER QUI ENFLAMME L'AMÉRIQUE
LE FEU ET LA FUREUR
TRUMP À LA MAISON BLANCHE
MICHAEL WOLFF
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>> all potential perjurers so stay on the vetted script. Indeed, in the courtroom world of social media, if you are a subject of interest or a target of potential prosecution you ought wisely to conduct yourself as though you are always being deposed.

This is true of every famous person except, of course, Trump. Only he has been able to unleash the real, if demented, spirit of his language, setting it on a surreal flight – one that, I believed, no political reporter, with the trade's dour language skills, had been able to fully report.

Trump has defied gravity and everyone else is shackled to the ground. Trump is a fabulist and a liar and his journalist opponents believe themselves, in opposition, to be truth tellers, schoolmarmishly so. Fire and fury vs pursed-lip virtue.

I am old enough to think the word "journalist" is not all that noble a designation. Journalist – that record keeper, quote taker and processor of press releases – was, in the world of letters I grew up in, a lower-down job. To be a writer – once the ambition of every journalist – was to be the greater truth teller.

In a long career, I have not much had to defend that view. I have been able to say what I want, as expressively as I want, without anyone taking particular exception, perhaps without anyone taking too much notice. I am in the representational business, a portraitist. I have tried to walk an amused line amid hyperbole, documentary detail, cruel characterisation, occasional affection, some good punchlines and anthropological social insight. It's been a good living.

Applied to Trump, it's now a fabulous one – readers seemed to have appreciated, with equal humour and repugnance, my Falstaff portrait of him. But now, famous and promoted above mere writer status, I find myself called to a different account, ever confronted with the bald question: "Is your book 100 per cent true?" Yes, one receives media training in how to answer this sort of question. But yet, in that moment of hesitation on television, how can one not consider the greater question: what really is 100 per cent true – is anything? And, for goodness sake, what is truth? Is this really a question? There is Andrew Marr giving me a fish-eye look, suddenly more vicar than TV host – and, not incidentally, having no first-hand knowledge at all about the Trump White House – suggesting I must have perpetrated some fraud, even if he doesn't know what it is.

We are in a moment in which truth, according to Steve Bannon – the president's former chief strategist and one of the significant characters in my book – is more and more often a "weaponised" version of the truth. That is, truth is the cryptocurrency of the current political climate – it can be what you want it to be. That's what I was suddenly being accused of: my truth being a deviation from absolute truth (with true journalists being the keeper of actual absolute truth). This is difficult to defend against because, in a sense, it's true. Or the defence calls for a detailed explanation of what exactly writing is, of the act of description, of how you actually move the reader to participate in the experience. Basic. Here is one of my favourite moments from Norman Mailer's *The Armies Of The Night* (Mailer is a writer who often slummed as a journalist). At the march on the Pentagon in 1969, a high point of opposition to the war in Vietnam, Mailer watched a Southern boy in the National Guard defending the Pentagon seek out female protesters to beat up. Mailer tried to understand the logic: "He may never have another opportunity like this, to beat a woman without having to make love to her."

Try to explain that to Andrew Marr.

But I *have* tried to explain. Two college students writing for a campus publication came to my house in New York in the weeks after publication of my book to talk to me about modern journalism. They led with a bursting question about journalism's moral importance, its mission and crucial role in the fight against Trump and its need to defend truth from its antithesis: fake news. Hmmm, I said and tried to describe the difference between journalist and writer. I suggested putting the issue of truth aside, that truth wasn't really the job. The job was being able to see the details of what was in front of your face and to describe them both simply and with the greatest verve. Compose your music. In seven months in Trump's White House, I said, I had really never asked much beyond, "How's it going?" Unlike the journalists who officially attend Trump, I wasn't trying to insist on an explanation of the logic of the Trump White House; I was trying to portray a world in which there clearly was no logic. All fair enough, it seemed to me.

I was trying to portray a world in which there clearly was no logic

But, of course, this college publication was online and their verbatim interview suddenly produced viral social media headlines.

Wolff: "I'm no journalist."

Wolff: "Forget about truth."

Alas.

Now, a curious aspect of all this is that, judging by the sheer volume of my book sales, many people who do not ordinarily buy books must have bought mine. This might then be a kind of populism in reverse: the rabble as readers. My FedEx man, my Uber driver, the nannies on the block: all hungry for vivid prose. Of course, this may not be so much about books as about Trump. But Trump, I believe, is best described as a written character – he needs the full symphony of hyperbole, documentary detail, cruel characterisation, occasional affection, some good punchlines and anthropological social insight.

During one television interview, which then ricocheted in derisive reaction around social media, I said, grievously, "If it feels true, it is true." That is, of course, what writing is, dare I say, to make a scene or a character feel true. And mine is a truth that suddenly seemed to make sense to millions of readers perhaps yet unsatisfied with all the words of explanation of how Trump came to exist. I showed instead of told.

And yet, to be famous is to be accountable, to be a combatant. Fame defines a battleground. Fame, in Trumpian fashion, is war. You are expected to defend your fame; many people want to take it from you. The elites – the famous and notorious and the people who prosper from the famous and notorious – are of course under attack. But this may be as much a civil war among elites. They (or we) are under attack from people who want to be famous or because of a zero-sum calculation among the famous. If I am famous, someone else is less famous. To the barricades.

Trump has said he knew he could run for president because he was famous. Equally, he has said the reason he ran for president was as part of his goal to become the most famous man in the world. In that sense, surely, fame is the enemy. Fame, having given us Trump, is something that needs to be – like excess wealth – taxed, reduced, flattened. The famous, in this current view of the world, should be held to account. Up against the wall.

On the other hand, really, I am just a writer. GQ

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Photographs **Getty Images**

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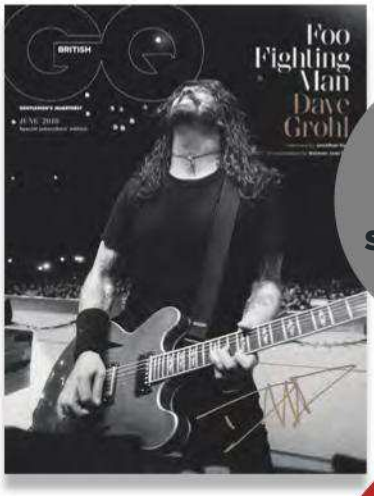

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Is this the world's first amped-up super limo? We think so...

STORY BY **Jason Barlow**

The age of the extra-luxe electric vehicle has arrived, and the game-changing Vision concept from Aston Martin Lagonda is leading the charge

Are the world's super-rich feeling restless? Aston Martin thinks so. Restless and ready for the next big thing.

In reactivating its ancient and previously fusty Lagonda imprint, the aspiration is no less than to become the world's first zero-emissions luxury brand, to "confound" and to disrupt traditional luxury tropes in a way that will resonate in Silicon Valley, Shanghai and potentially even Stow-On-The-Wold.

"There's a very traditional point of view in the luxury segment, but things have changed massively in the past few years," Aston Martin Lagonda's director of design, Miles Nurnberger, says. "There's a much more progressive attitude. The whole world has become more of an early adopter."

Welcome, then, a fully electric super-limo, with designs on the upper echelons of the luxury car hierarchy. Watch out Rolls-Royce, whose cars Aston Martin likens to Ancient Greece. The Lagonda brand dates back to 1906, but since only 12,000 cars have worn the badge in the interim, a sly reference to it as a 112-year-old startup isn't wide of the mark. It's authentic, but the history here doesn't preclude a radical, self-driving, zero-emissions reinvention.

As AML chief creative officer Marek Reichman explains, "The shape of the Lagonda Vision concept is the result of satisfying a number of different requirements: the need to make a bold design statement; to establish Lagonda as a company of the future; and to show how technological advancement can help liberate design too. It's a shape formed by the collision of invisible forces, like those made by magnetic particles in an electrical current. The secret is to understand how to connect that shock and change it to beautiful surfacing."

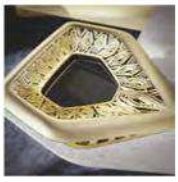
This won't be the work of a moment, which is partly the point.

Tellingly, the new Lagonda's code name during development was "Concorde" and the focus is on reimagining the idea of travel as a noble pursuit in itself rather than an inevitable part of the daily grind. The interior space, which is colossal and upholstered with luxe but unusual materials such as ceramics, silk and woven wool, was codeveloped with furniture designer David Linley.

The team are more coy about the tech that underpins the visuals (they're still working on that bit), but the plan is to use solid state electric batteries, stored under the floor, powerful enough to deliver a 400-mile range between wireless conductive charges. That helps emancipate the creative process and the result is a far-thinking car that – unusually, these days – really looks like one. "Clearly, we want to make something evocative and exciting for the future," says Nurnberger. "Aston Martin is a British brand; Lagonda is global. Lagonda has to break new ground. It's the technology part of the company. It's got to look like it was made on Mars. We want people to say, 'What is *that*?'"

ASTONMARTIN.COM

Need to know



Lagonda

1907 Lagonda launches its first car, the Torpedo.

1947 Bought by Aston Martin's David Brown.

1961 The Lagonda Rapide revives the brand.

2018 Aston Martin Lagonda's Vision is revealed as part of its electric strategy.

The switched-on Vision super-limo concept from Aston Martin Lagonda

The AML concept was codeveloped with Britain's luxury interiors vizier David Linley

Renault EZ-GO

Car-making is morphing into mobility service provision and the solutions are already splintering, but some things seem clear. By 2050, Renault believes, 70 per cent of Europeans will live in cities and the established car-ownership model will be unsustainable. Renault's EZ-GO (*right*) is a robo-taxi that runs level-four autonomy and seats up to six people in a huge, imaginatively conceived interior accessed through a vast, single-glass door. Summoned via mobile app or at a roadside stop, it goes door to door and should be cheaper than an Uber.

Renault's design VP, Laurens van den Acker, is typically effusive, if a little dreamy, about the possibilities. "If you're a car guy, autonomous EVs make it feel like life's over. But it doesn't have to be. You remember the scene in *Lost In Translation* when Scarlett Johansson is staring out of her hotel window across the Tokyo skyline? We wanted to capture some of that magic in this vehicle." Renault's first robo-service is due to begin in 2022. Ubiquity beckons.

RENAULT.CO.UK

Jaguar I-Pace

As the first of the big players to get a pure EV to market, Jaguar's I-Pace (*below*) has delivered in impressive style, with two electric motors, an aluminium chassis and genuine Jag driving dynamics. "In terms of concept-to-production reality, this is the closest we've got," design director Ian Callum says.

JAGUAR.CO.UK

Porsche Mission E Cross Turismo

"This and the 911 GT3 RS would occupy my dream garage." Porsche design boss Michael Mauer is on the money there, as the Mission E Cross Turismo (*above and left*) as well as 2019's Porsche EV should end Tesla's reign. Two electric motors combine to produce the equivalent of 600bhp, plus there's torque vectoring, all-wheel drive, four-wheel steering, adaptive suspension and inductive charging hooked up to a home energy storage system. Inspired by Seventies 911 rally cars, the exterior design is close to the real thing, as is the cabin, with its full-width touchscreen and eye-tracking control that maximises favoured instruments while minimising others. *And* there's a Porsche drone in the boot.

PORSCHE.COM

One point twenty-one jigawatts!?

How an EV relic of the Seventies went back to the future and beat Tesla, Ferrari and Lamborghini off the line

Story by **Jonny Smith** Photograph by **Matt Woods**

So many people strive for bespoke possessions. Take supercars, for example. They are more than super. They are often the epitome of aesthetic flamboyance and cutting-edge technology. But rarely are they truly one-off. Even a Bugatti is still a series-manufactured car.

I like it when people think beyond the M showrooms and configurators. Take the hot-rodding culture that stemmed from post-war chaps seeking excitement. They fixed up and chopped about old, cheap automobiles in order to both personalise and make them go faster than originally intended. Nowadays, rebuilt and re-engineered Ford Mustangs and Dodge Chargers are everywhere, from films to music videos.

But could the hot-rod magic wand be waved over a long-forgotten, stupidly small electric relic? I wanted to see if a silent, clean-conscience car could be charismatic and mighty quick, while also reminding people that this phenomenon of electric vehicles (EVs) is not a recent discovery by Tesla's Elon Musk. It's more than 100 years old.

If I was going to build an electric hot rod, I wanted an unlikely contender and the awkward-looking, aluminium-bodied Enfield 8000 ECC seemed the perfect choice. They made 120 of them on the Isle Of Wight in the Seventies, bankrolled by forward-thinking Greek shipping tycoon John Goulandris.

The Enfield was a pint-sized pioneer that boasted optional run-flat tyres, a heated windscreen and even its own on-board charging system. It didn't have a 0-60mph time, because terminal velocity was 40mph. (Ironically, the car's head engineer, John Ackroyd, would later work on Thrust 2, the world's fastest car.) Even using the power of Twitter it took well over a year to find an Enfield for sale and a further three to make it out-accelerate a Lamborghini Aventador.

Dragged from a shed in Bristol, my car was the third Enfield off the production line. It had previously featured on *Tomorrow's World*, but more recently had been caught in a river flood. The car was mechanically dead and thus perfect for an organ transplant using modern battery and electric technology.

I called the car "Flux Capacitor" and the key ingredients to making it fast were powerful lithium-ion batteries, a pair of robust electric motors to drive the rear wheels and a good brain to oversee the driving, charging and laptop tuning processes.

The batteries took a year to source, as they are made to order in Korea and require a military account to purchase, which I didn't have. Luckily, British company Hyperdrive Innovation did, so it ordered and carefully packaged them into four enclosures that live under the bonnet and boot. Normally used to run the mini-guns and start the engines of a Bell SuperCobra attack helicopter, the 2,400amp, 400V battery pack provides three times the torque of Ferrari's F12.

The joy of electric muscle is that there's maximum torque as soon as you touch the throttle. But such power needs safety, especially in a 2.84 metres-long car designed for eight bhp and now gifted more than 800. In the name of self-preservation, a roll cage was added, along with chassis modifications to cope with the motors, a heavy-duty back axle and removable wheelie bars. Yes, wheelie bars. There's no gearbox. When you stab the throttle, the car's brain (which lives under the passenger seat) informs the batteries and motors and the back tyres start smoking. The tiny Enfield was always destined to spend its weekends drag racing on the quarter mile, but, for me, it had to remain usable on the street.

It's road tax and London congestion charge exempt, with a range of up to 50 miles per charge. I've taken my children to school in it, albeit one at a time. It's still a two-seater, only now with less carpet and windows that are bolted in (they started to fall out above 105mph).

Back in 1974, the Enfield accelerated from 0-30mph in 12.5 seconds. Today: 0-60mph in less than three and 0-121mph in 9.86 – a world record for a road-legal EV. It out-accelerates the McLaren 650S and even Porsche's 918 Spyder over the standing quarter mile.

Yet for a car designed to do 40mph it remains bizarrely smooth, easy and stable to drive at 130mph. The Flux Capacitor doesn't have the AI traction/launch guardian angels that the supercars possess, but that's what makes me grin. It is an utterly unique piece of Great British eccentricity that I hope, in some small way, reminds us not to dismiss the plug-in car. **GQ**

Need to know

The Enfield 8000: that was then, this is now...

BEFORE

Engine 8bhp

Performance 0-30mph, 12.5 seconds; top speed, 40mph

Range 35-55 miles

Weight 975kg

AFTER

Engine 800bhp

Performance 0-60mph, under three seconds; top speed, 140mph

Range 50 miles

Weight 920kg

GQ writer Jonny Smith's Enfield 'Flux Capacitor' 8000 is the world's fastest road-legal electric car

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NEW!	2017	BSME **Editor Of The Year**
	2017	Lovie **Best Website For Lifestyle**
	2017	Digiday Publishing Awards Europe **Best Use Of Facebook Live**
	2017	Digiday Publishing Awards Europe **Best Branded Content Program**
	2017	PPA **Writer Of The Year**
	2017	AOP **Audience Development Team Of The Year**
	2017	CNI **Best Brand Financial Performance In Native Advertising**
	2017	CNI **Best Native Campaign Of The Year**
	2016	BSME **Editor Of The Year**
	2016	Digiday Awards Europe **Video Team Of The Year**
	2016	Shots Awards **Brand Entertainment Of The Year - Series**
	2016	Ciclope Festival **Finalist, Best Direction**
	2016	Lovie **Long Form Or Series Video First Place**
	2016	Lovie **Long Form Or Series Video People's Choice**
	2015	DMA **Men's Lifestyle Magazine Of The Year**
	2015	FMJA **Stylist Of The Year (GQ Style)**
	2014	BSME **Digital Art Director Of The Year**
	2014	DMA **Designer Of The Year**
	2014	TCADP **Media Award**
	2014	FPA **Feature Of The Year**
	2014	FPA **Journalist Of The Year**
	2014	Amnesty International Media Award
	2014	PPA **Editor Of The Year**
	2014	FMJA **Online Fashion Journalist Of The Year**
	2013	EICA **Media Commentator Of The Year**
	2013	DMA **Men's Lifestyle Magazine Of The Year**
	2013	BSME **Editor Of The Year**
	2013	FMJA **Outstanding Contribution To London Collections Men**
	2013	PPA **Magazine Writer Of The Year**
	2012	Mark Boxer Award
	2012	BSME **Editor Of The Year**
	2012	DMA **Lifestyle Magazine Of The Year**
	2012	Help For Heroes **Outstanding Contribution**
	2012	Px3 Prix De La Photographie Paris **Gold Medal**
	2011	Foreign Press Association Media Awards, Sports
	2011	Amnesty International Media Award
	2010	Amnesty International Media Award
	2010	One World Media Press Award
	2010	The Maggies **Magazine Cover Of The Year**
	2010	P&G Awards **Best Styling (GQ Style)**
	2009	PPA **Writer Of The Year**
	2008	BSME **Editor Of The Year**
	2007	BSME **Magazine Of The Year**
	2007	BSME **Brand Building Initiative Of The Year**
	2007	MDA/MJA Press Gazette Awards **Best Cover**
	2007	P&G Awards **Best Styling (GQ Style)**
	2006	P&G Awards **Best Grooming Editor (GQ Style)**
	2006	P&G Awards **Best Styling (GQ Style)**
	2006	MDA/MJA Press Gazette Awards **Interviewer Of The Year**
	2006	MDA/MJA Press Gazette Awards **Best Designed Consumer Magazine**
	2006	MDA/MJA Press Gazette Awards **Subbing Team Of The Year**
	2006	PPA **Writer Of The Year**
	2005	PPA **Writer Of The Year**
	2005	Magazine Design Awards **Best Cover**
	2004	Association Of Online Publishers Awards **Best Website**
	2004	BSME **Magazine Of The Year**
	2003	PPA **Writer Of The Year**
	2002	BSME **Magazine Of The Year**
	2002	PPA **Writer Of The Year**
	2001	BSME **Magazine Of The Year**
	2001	PPA **Designer Of The Year**
	2001	Printing World Award
	2000	Total Design Award
	2000	Jasmine Award Winner
	1999	Printing World Award
	1999	Jasmine Award Winner
	1999	PPA **Designer Of The Year**
	1995	Ace Press Award **Circulation**
	1995	Ace Press Award **Promotion**
	1995	PPA **Columnist Of The Year**
	1994	PPA **Publisher Of The Year**
	1991	British Press Circulation Award **Best Promotion Of A Consumer Magazine**

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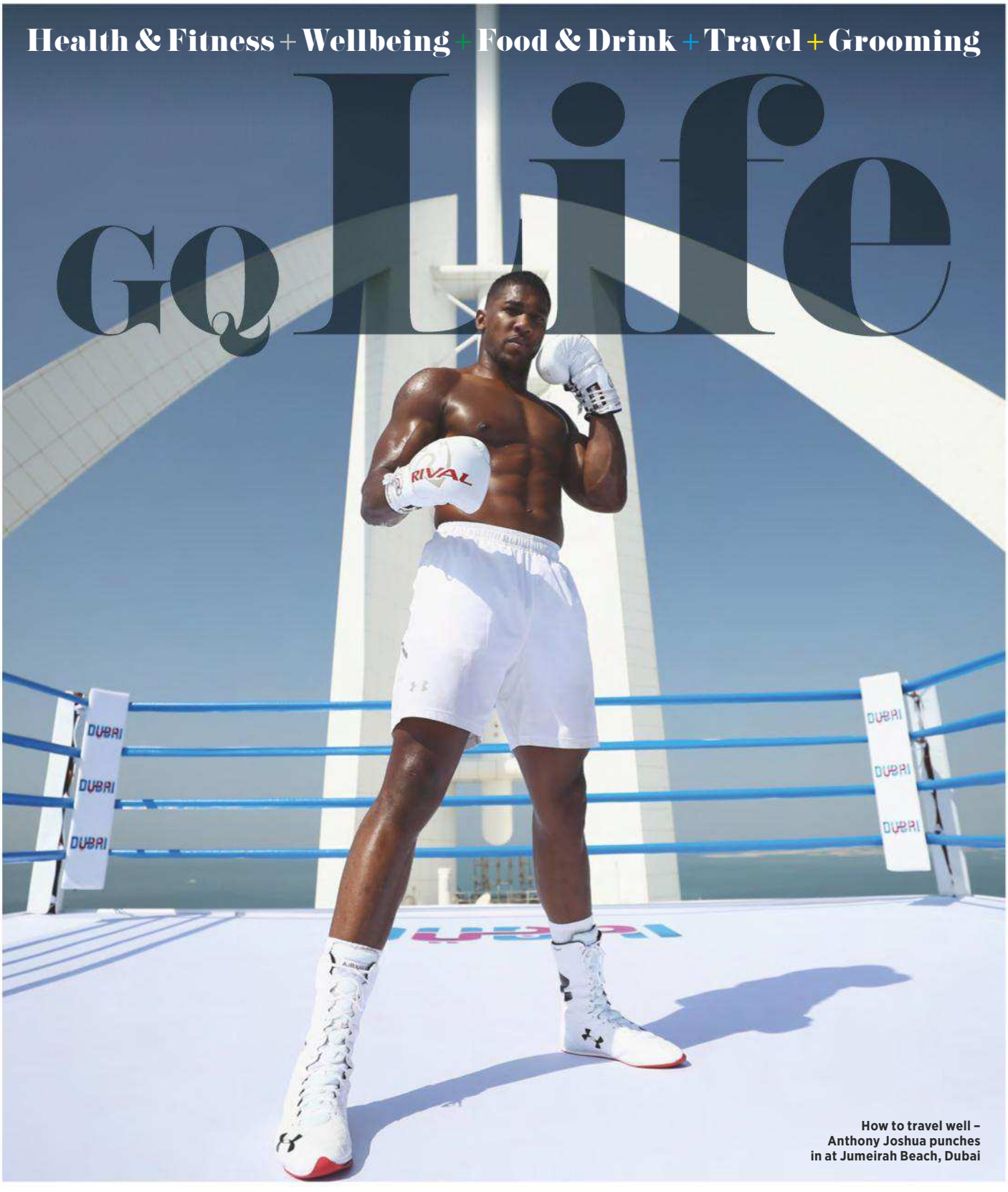
GQ Life



How to travel well – Anthony Joshua punches in at Jumeirah Beach, Dubai

Want to be fitter, faster, smarter, stronger? Of course you do. **To test yourself, your limits and your world?** No doubt. With all the answers to the questions that count – what to eat (and where), where to go (and how), how to live (and why). **Your very best self starts right here**

Edited by **Bill Prince & Paul Henderson**

The GQ turbo wellness travel guide

Whether seeking treatment, inner balance or nothing more than rejuvenation, the next seven pages visit the best destinations – from the Med to The Maldives, the Alps to Antarctica – devoted to your goals

Edited by **Paul Henderson**

Family rooms from £830 per night. Strada Statale 195 Sulcitana, Sardinia, Italy. +39 070 92171. fortevillageresort.com. Performance Center private training sessions from £220 for 75 minutes. Ryanair flies from London Stansted to Cagliari from £13. **ryanair.com**

Best Sports Academy

Forte Village, Sardinia

Ever wondered where sport's elite go to train, rehabilitate and re-energise? Wonder no more...

Story by **Paul Henderson**

Sport? I thought Sardinia was all about living to an old age? It is – as one of the world's five "Blue Zones", where people live longer and are healthier than anywhere else. The island enjoys 300 days of sunshine a year and if you want to try the fabled Mediterranean diet there are 21 restaurants in the Village to choose from.

There must be something in the water. There is. Salt. Forte Village is world-renowned for its thalassotherapy and the medical team – led by the dapper Dr Angelo Cerina – have developed a six-pool programme with proven detox results. "The alchemy of salt, water and sunshine purifies the system and increases the benefit of other treatments," says Dr Cerina.

What other treatments are on offer? A combination of holistic, ayurvedic, massotherapy and physiotherapy. If you want to relax, look younger, lose weight and improve your skin, Forte has the therapy for you. If you suffer from back pain, Professor Pier Francesco Parra, aka Doctor Laser, has used his innovative laser therapy to treat the likes of Novak Djokovic and Venus Williams.

Surely all the athletes aren't coming for lasers and sea oil cryotherapy? No, the pull is the Performance Center and the Forte Lab. Using cutting-edge technology and specialist diagnostics to analyse everything from your balance to jaw strength, Forte is able to create a bespoke training programme for each guest.

Seems a shame to spend all my time in an air-conditioned gym. You don't have to. There are football pitches so good that they have hosted Inter Milan and Roma and Chelsea run a soccer school there. Tennis fans will find 12 courts; the stunning Molas Golf Club is a short drive away; and the diving is exceptional. There are also a cycling academy; a rugby academy hosted by ex-England stars Austin Healey and Will Greenwood; and Frank "Wise Guy" Buglioni's boxing academy. There is even an Anatoly Karpov chess academy.

If I want to chill out for a bit? Recovery is part of the package. There is a private beach, nine swimming pools, most of the villas have private gardens and every evening there is entertainment laid on (Sting is playing in July).

An Englishman in New York in Sardinia? Quite so.

World wellness recommendations...

Anthony Joshua, world heavyweight champion

Jumeirah Beach, Dubai

"I like Dubai as a healthy holiday destination. The spirits of the city are high and it's a beautiful place to be. I have stayed at a few of the Jumeirah properties and they are all of a really high standard. It is a place I use to relax and chill with my family after fights, on the beach especially (*below*). And if I do want to treat myself, the nightlife is great and the restaurants are amazing."

jumeirah.com

Beach bat set by **Frescobol Carioca**, £150. At Selfridges. selfridges.com

Shorts by **Stella McCartney**, £265. At Harrods. harrods.com

Holiday Heroes

Hot stuff

Because obviously a five-star Village vacation requires scorching summer style buys to match...

Sandals by **Gucci**, £450. gucci.com

Day Rescue Defense Lotion Broad Spectrum SPF 35 by **Lab Series**, £45. labseries.co.uk

Bag by **Holiday Boileau**, £25. At mrporter.com

Three tropics friendly products to pack...

Mosquito spray

The best-looking (and smelling) mosquito repellent on the market, Coqui Coqui's wonder product is laced with the scent of oranges grown in Mexico's Yucatán Peninsula (which is where the product is made).

£28. coquicoqui.com

Suncream

There's nothing like the smell of a really good suncream. This high-SPF Mineral Radiance UV Defense from SkinCeuticals is ultra-protective, a great all-rounder and a good one for achieving a tan while remaining protected.

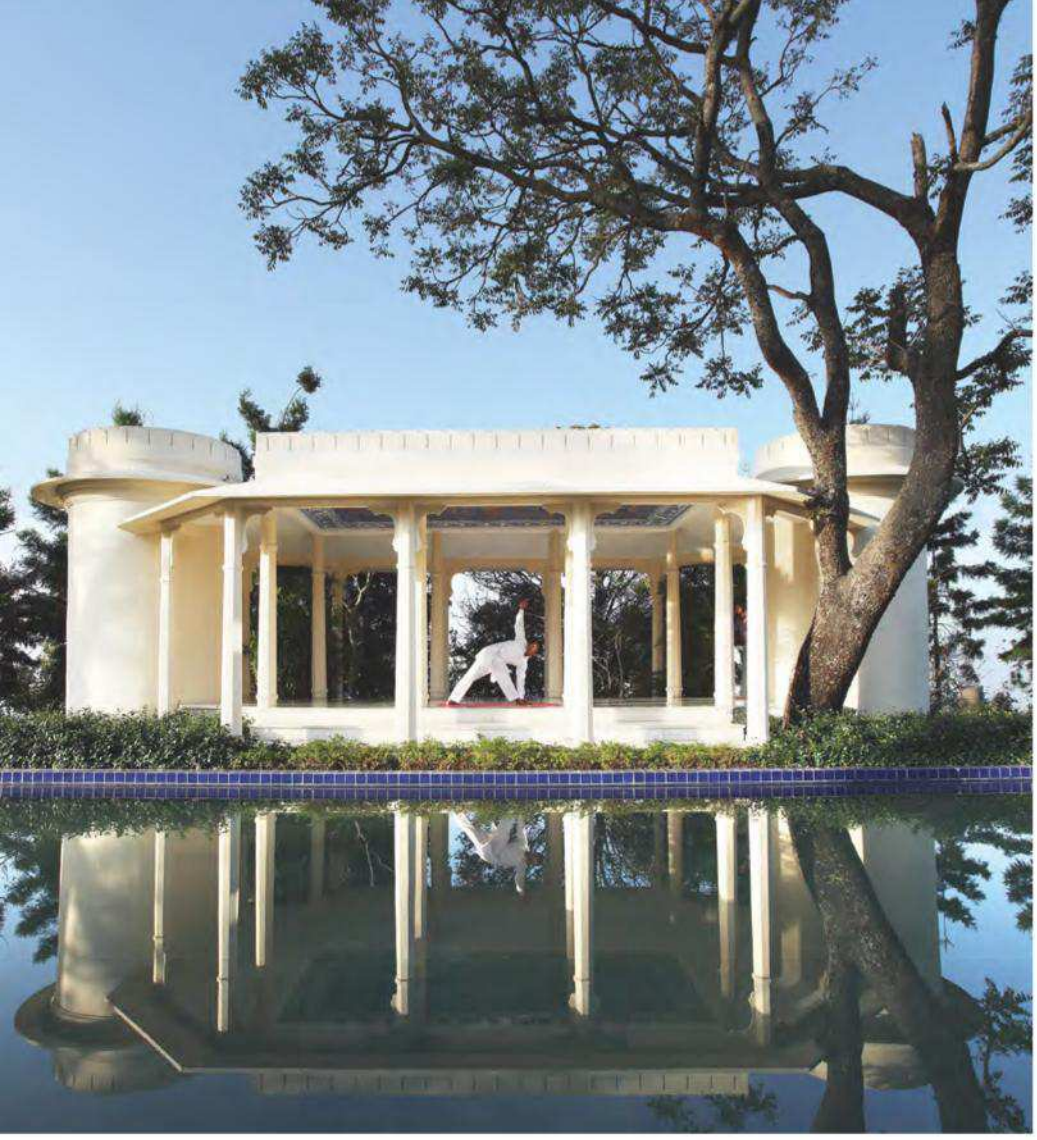
£41. skinceuticals.co.uk

Aftersun

Sisley's aftersun is hydrating and gentle on UV-ravaged skin – which will be useful if you forget to apply enough of the above.

Teo van den Broeke

£107. sisley-paris.com



Best Destination Resort With A Celebrity Trainer

Ananda In The Himalayas, India

Where Eastern spirituality meets Western grit

Story by **John Naughton**

It's late afternoon in the foothills of the Himalayas and as a mist descends over the distant peaks, the strains of bagpipe music drift down the hill from the direction of the nearby Maharajah's Palace, prompting the birds to redouble their already considerable chorus. The effect is blissfully narcotic and after a day of exercise and massage, which have combined to leave one's body in a semi-ecstatic state, it requires a strong will not to drift off into a dreamy unconsciousness. If this isn't nirvana, it's certainly doing a convincing impression.

Welcome to Ananda, which given its remote location quite rightly bills itself as a "destination spa". Here, surrounded by lush, jungle-like vegetation, is a 100-acre complex of rooms and private villas where the impeccable staff greet you with joined hands and "Namaste" while guests drift around bearing expressions of benign wellbeing.

Perhaps inspired by its proximity to the roof of the world, Ananda has, since the turn of the century, set the bar in wellness at a lofty height. In its serene location, it offers a combination of ayurveda (including a bespoke diet based on your dosha), world-class yoga instruction, vedanta (philosophy), meditation and a variety of massage and treatments. What makes this visit particularly special, however, is the presence of personal trainer *du jour* Matt Roberts, who brings his mixture of training and trekking to the party in what he calls a "retreat".

Roberts discovered Ananda five years ago and fell for its unique atmosphere and the quality of its therapies. "To genuinely re-energise was an interesting process," he recalls. "It was like pressing control-alt-delete and rebooting... I [left] feeling ten years younger."

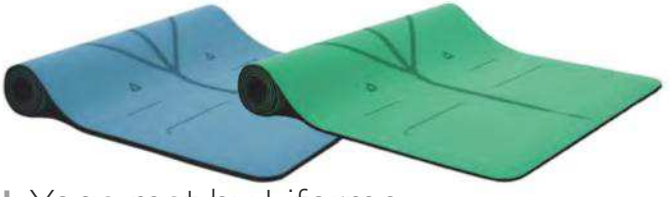
His youthful features bear out this observation and, as his roster of A-list clients can testify, he is an inspirational leader. Ananda prides itself on a holistic approach to wellbeing, with mind, body and spirit receiving equal attention, and this clearly chimes with Roberts, whose positivity encourages you to take on challenges you would normally run a mile from.

A similar sense of adventure is required for some of the treatments, one of which – nasyam – involves snorting powder and huffing smoke, but not in a good way, and all of which, for the men at least, require the comic rigmarole of having a loincloth fitted. Indeed, the massages involve a degree of familiarity that covers new territory for most: for men – or at least this man – it breaks new ground in having four male hands wander searchingly across almost every inch of one's naked, oiled body. Given that a warm-oil enema (optional) is also administered, very few body areas could be said to escape attention. Adventure is rewarded, however, as the massages leave your body almost vibrating with pleasure and, as you exit the spa, past the cross-legged piper by its entrance, it's not on flip-flops but on a moving walkway comprised of warm air and contentment.

In my opening consultation with Ananda's doctor I said I would like to lose weight and over the course of the week I shed half a stone. But Ananda is much more about what you gain than what you lose. For me, that would be a sense of vitality, greater calm and a desire to take my first, foolish, faltering steps to practising yoga. They call it a retreat but, to be honest, it feels like an advance.

A sense of adventure is required for some of the treatments

Matt Roberts' Retreat from £5,040 for seven nights, including treatments on the Ayurvedic Rejuvenation Programme. The Palace Estate, Narendra Nagar, Uttarakhand, India. +91 124 451 6650. **anandaspa.com**



+ Yoga mat by Liforme

If you only buy one yoga mat (let's face it, no one needs two) make it the Liforme. Not only does it have a unique alignment system to help you perfect your poses, it is also longer and wider than traditional mats and made from a slip-free material. Om-mazing. **£100. liforme.com**

Photographs **Getty Images; Pixeleyes**

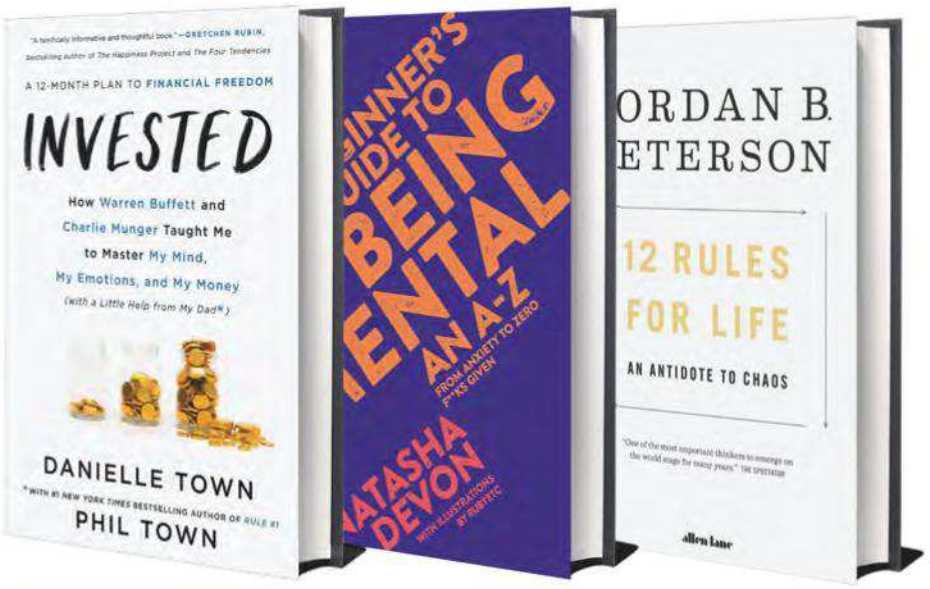
World wellness recommendations...

Iskra Lawrence, model

Tulum, Mexico

"I have just returned from Tulum for the fifth time and I can't get enough of it. The beaches are beautiful, the food is fantastically fresh, and Ziggy Beach is the perfect place to relax, recharge and refocus your energy. It is also the kind of place that inspires you to exercise. Depending on your mood you can do a HIIT session or a more contemplative yoga class. For me, it is just perfect for nourishing body and soul."

ziggybeachtulum.com


A 12-MONTH PLAN TO FINANCIAL FREEDOM
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How Warren Buffett and Charlie Munger Taught Me to Master My Mind, My Emotions, and My Money
(With a Little Help from My Dad®)
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A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO BEING MENTAL
AN A-Z
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ETERSON
12 RULES FOR LIFE
AN ANTIDOTE TO CHAOS
Allen Lane

Best Wellness Books

Words of wisdom

Fire up your mind with three smart reads to pack and pore over

Invested: How Warren Buffett And Charlie Munger Taught Me to Master My Mind, My Emotions, And My Money (With A Little Help From My Dad)

By Danielle and Phil Town
(*William Morrow, £18*)

The repercussions of a poor investment aren't limited to your bank balance: you'll also find them notched across your browline. But with these lessons from investor Phil Town and his daughter Danielle (cohost of *InvestED*), behold your plan to financial freedom. **Out now.**

A Beginner's Guide To Being Mental: An A-Z

By Natasha Devon
(*Pan Macmillan, £12.99*)

From body image and gender via social inequality, former government mental health advisor Natasha Devon MBE breaks down every mental health issue from A-Z, debunking stigma after stigma as she goes. Whether you're trying to empathise with someone close to you or self-diagnose, Devon's advice is backed by decades of personal experience and social research, as well as bolstered by expert quotes. **Out on 17 May.**

12 Rules For Life: An Antidote To Chaos

By Jordan B Peterson
(*Allen Lane, £20*)

If you want the benefits of self-help without actually having to think about it, then allow clinical psychologist, internet celebrity and one of the world's most influential public speakers Jordan B Peterson to dictate his 12 principles for instant fulfilment. With rules on everything from posture to cleanliness, using examples from clinical practice, all you have to do is... obey. **Eleanor Halls**
Out now.

+ Blaze a trail What to wear on the road to enlightenment...

Rucksack by Pacsafe
This bag is tough, lockable and has a waterproof rating of IPX6 (so you can swim with it and keep your stuff dry).
£180. pacsafe.com

Cap by Buff
This comfortable cap comes with a longer visor for greater protection. It also has a packable technology that means it won't lose its shape.
£30. buffwear.co.uk

Jacket by Arc'teryx
Designed for summer climbing and hiking, this limited-edition Cerium jacket is superlight, fully waterproof, breathable and durable.
£255. arcteryx.com

Sunglasses by Serengeti
Using double-injected rubber, these sport shades are comfortable and stay in place whatever the terrain.
£179. serengeti-eyewear.com

Shorts by Lululemon
These high-intensity training shorts are made from a technical fabric that won't cling to damp or sweaty skin.
£68. lululemon.co.uk

Shoes by Arc'teryx
Made for all-day comfort, these trail shoes are light and come with a Vibram Megagrip outsole for stability whatever the surface.
£135. arcteryx.com

30

Perform 30 seconds of alternating or lateral waves with 60 seconds' recovery time, for 8-10 sets.

Primal Training

Battling ropes

Pull, push, smash and grab your way to Flintstone fitness. This month: make some waves to sculpt more muscle

Battling ropes present a high-velocity, whole-body workout that will get your heart pumping and muscles burning. Maintaining a stable core to minimise torso rotation while whipping these ropes up and down will blast your obliques and strengthen your spinal stabilisers. Battling ropes primarily challenge your core and upper body, but add in squats, lunges or jumps and you've got a complete, high-intensity routine.

Directions

Start position...

1. With a rope in each hand, stand with your feet shoulder-width apart with knees and hips flexed. Brace with your core, flexing forward a little at the hips so your chest faces the floor. Do not round your upper back: your spine should be long and your shoulders wide with a slightly tucked pelvis (pull in your abdomen and squeeze your glutes).

2. Keep your back flat and shoulders wide as you whip one arm up to shoulder level as fast as you can.

3. Whip the arm down, slamming the rope as hard as you can while simultaneously repeating the sequence with the other arm.

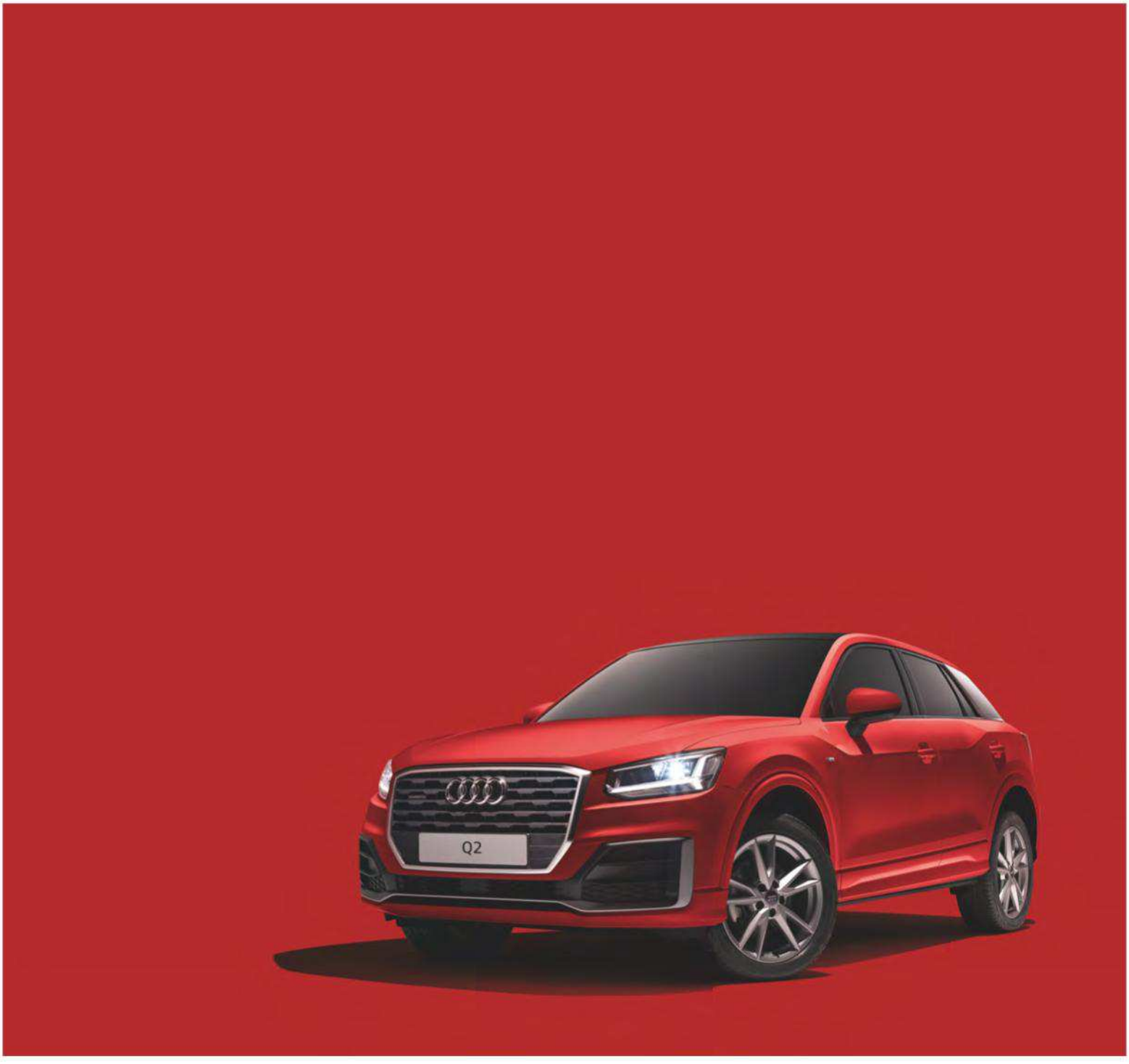
For more on GQ's PT, visit jonathangoodair.com

Shorts, £35. Trainers, £160. Both by **Adidas**. adidas.co.uk

Isn't it time you tried... blood-type therapy?

The ultra-luxe hillside resort of Sri Panwa Phuket, Thailand, now offers treatments tailored to your blood type. Developed in partnership with skincare company Immunetra, Sri Panwa's spa uses products and techniques designed specifically for the four main blood groups: A, B, AB and O (it's probably best to find out which one you are before you travel). The treatment allegedly "boosts the power of your immune system, ensuring visible results in overall health". When's the next flight to Phuket? **TvdB sripanwa.com**

Photograph **Ben Riggott** Grooming **Samantha Cooper at Carol Hayes Management** Model **Bradley Simmonds (@bradleysimmonds)**



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Standard EU Test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect 'real driving' results. Car shown features optional equipment. Image shown for illustrative purposes only.

Healing Holidays can arrange a four-night stay at SHA Wellness Clinic in a Deluxe Mountain View Suite from £2,119. **healingholidays.co.uk**

Best Medi-Spa

SHA Wellness Clinic, Alicante

Swap hedonism for holistics at the Costa Blanca's detox-and-diet stop

Story by **Paul Henderson**

A spa in Alicante? Is this a joke? Absolutely not. SHA might be ten minutes from Benidorm, but inside the tranquil confines of this award-winning retreat in L'Albir you'd never know the hedonistic horror of Spain's Costa Blanca was so close. According to the World Health Organization, this is "one of the most environmentally perfect climates in the world".

So there's lots to see? There is, but most tend not to leave the Carlos Gilardi-designed medi-spa, a beautiful glass- and white-walled building peppered with pools, waterfalls, gardens and relaxation areas galore.

Medi-spa? Sounds clinical... Well, yes, most come for the good of their health. The clinic was founded ten years ago by Alfredo Bataller Parietti to deploy the benefits of a macrobiotic diet, natural therapies, cognitive stimulation, fitness and inner balance.

How do they achieve all that? When you arrive, you are given a medical consultation to find out what you want to achieve. "The aim," according to Dr Ramon Sanders, "is to solve problems quicker and kick-start treatment."

And it all starts with the diet? It sure does. Depending on your programme, guests have a choice of three healthy eating plans. The food is delicious, but the portion sizes mean they're not the kind of meals you linger over.

Can I have a... Drink? No. But don't worry, because there is plenty to keep you occupied: massages, hydroenergetic detox cures, fitness sessions, acupuncture and classes in yoga, meditation, mindfulness and healthy cooking.

Does it work? Whatever you go to SHA for, chances are it will send you home with an action plan that could be life-changing.

But what if I do get really hungry... and a bit thirsty? Like we said, Benidorm is just 12 miles away...

World wellness recommendations...

Joe Wicks, The Body Coach

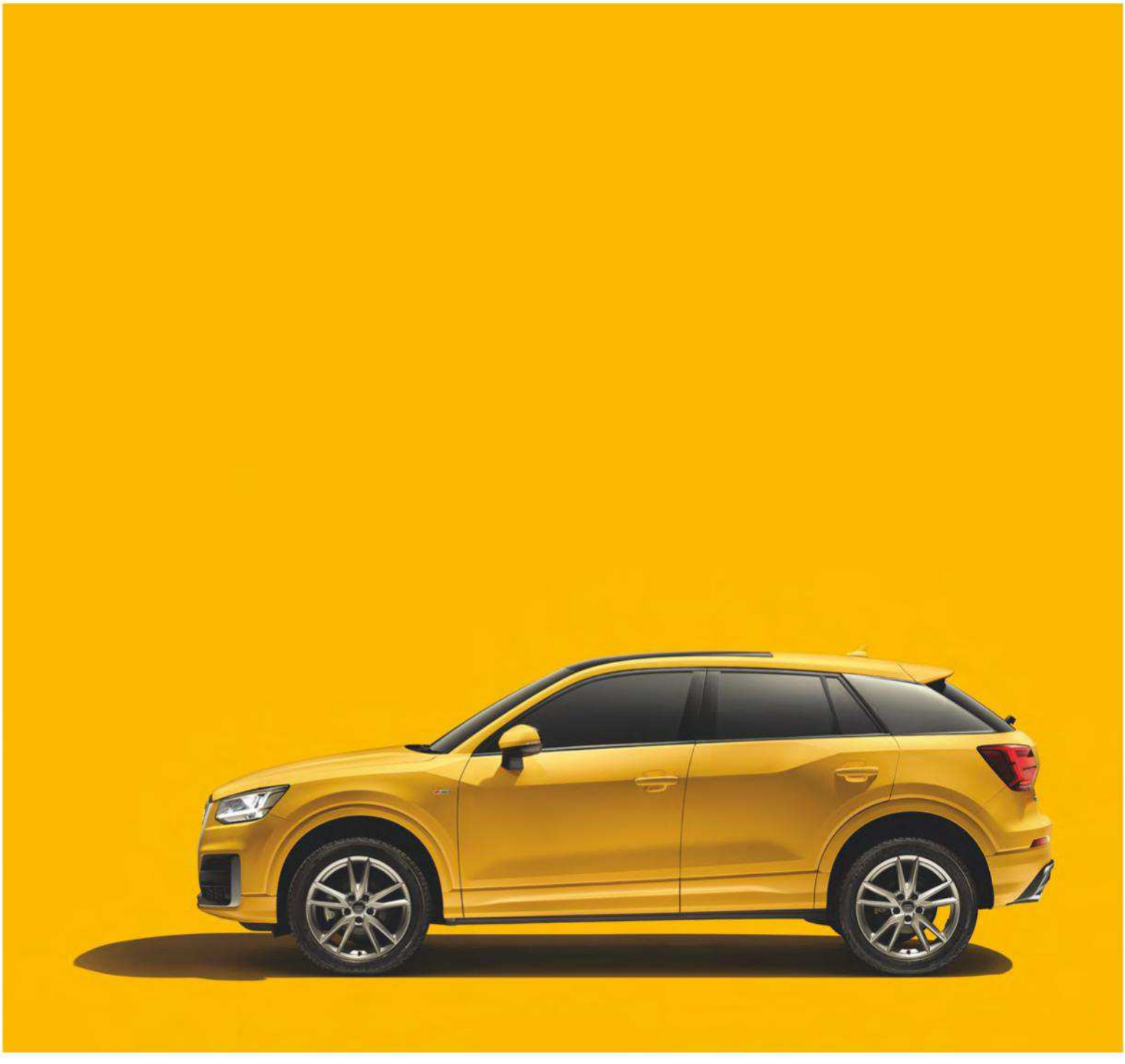
Los Angeles, US

"I love LA – the sunshine, the food, the people. One of my favourite things is waking up and doing a HIIT session by the coast (*below*) before breakfast in one of the cafés. Then I might head to one of the beach gyms on Santa Monica and do some upper arms work on the rings. I love working out in the sunshine, plus I get to jump in the sea afterwards."

+ Macrobiotics for beginners Five tips to improve your diet...

1. Eat more wholegrains. Plant-based food is the basis for the macrobiotic diet, so think brown rice, oats, barley, buck wheat and corn.
2. Vegetables should make up 20-30 per cent of your intake. The best ones are leafy (green cabbage, kale, broccoli), round (onions, squash) and root veg.
3. Chickpeas and lentils are the best pulses, tofu is a great source of soya and try seaweed, such as kombu, nori and wakame.
4. Pick naturally fermented foods. Pickles such as sauerkraut and kimchee are best. Avoid brined pickles as they don't contain probiotics.
5. Miso is the king of macrobiotic soup, as it is packed with amino acids, digestive-friendly bacteria and antioxidants.

Photograph **Getty Images** Illustration **Joe McKendry**



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Best For Detoxing

Viva Mayr, Altaussee

GQ follows its gut to the A-list-approved spartan spa in the Alps

Story by **Bill Prince**

Judging by the number of Instagram posts of Lake Worth and the Styrian mountains that surround it, you'd assume most visitors to the Viva Mayr clinic at Altaussee go just for the views. True, these are magnificent and the added period detail of its salt mines being a hideout for looted Nazi art (the "Ghent Altarpiece" was recovered here) adds to the sense of occasion, but the real reason to visit this "alpine fortress" (as the looters knew it) is to take part in Franz Xaver Mayr's fabled recovery programme, a process that singles out the gut as the gateway to a healthier, longer life.

The science is straightforward: bacteria in the gastrointestinal tract plays a vital role in maintaining the immune system, and hormones to regulate digestion can be disabled by stress or dietary imbalance. Combined, an upset stomach can lead to more than nausea: it can limit our wellbeing and life expectation.

Mayr's solution was a simple one: avoid raw after four; maintain a strict 1:2 balance of acid and alkaline foods; and never drink water immediately before, during or after eating. At Viva Mayr, this has been parlayed into a week-long programme designed to highlight any problems with your digestion, treat the side effects and refocus your mind away from the high-stress routines that have set you on course to Altaussee in the first place.

This is done with a light-touch treatment schedule that for me involved Epsom salts, electrolyte footbaths, regular massages and a daily five-mile walk beside the lake (my only moment of cordial interaction with my fellow guests as talking at dinner is discouraged).

The rest is down to you. There's little to do but wait for the next mealtime (from boiled potatoes and avocado at breakfast to a consommé supper) and watch TV. Rooms are basic but well appointed and come with balconies from which to enjoy those views.

My advice? Make like a celebrity and keep a low profile, take your medicine and, please, keep your snow-capped selfies to yourself.

From £210 per night. 222 Fischerndorf, 8992 Altaussee, Austria. +43 3622 71450. vivamayr.com. British Airways flies from London Gatwick to Salzburg from £130 return. **ba.com**

World wellness recommendations...

Zanna van Dijk, personal trainer and blogger

St Regis Vommuli, The Maldives

"This luxurious resort has a focus on wellness. With a fully equipped gym, aerial yoga classes as well as workout programmes, it's got your holiday training routine covered. Plus, you can use bikes to explore the island, enjoy extensive healthy menus and it is in a beautiful secluded location, perfect for meditation. It's almost impossible to leave not feeling like a new person."

stregismaldives.com

Listen Up

These podcasts could change your life

Five downloads to help you upgrade your health and wellbeing

Ben Coomber Radio
This is the UK's top-rated wellness podcast and with good reason. Ben Coomber is a relaxed but effective host who draws on his own health experiences to bring the best out of guests.
bencoomber.com

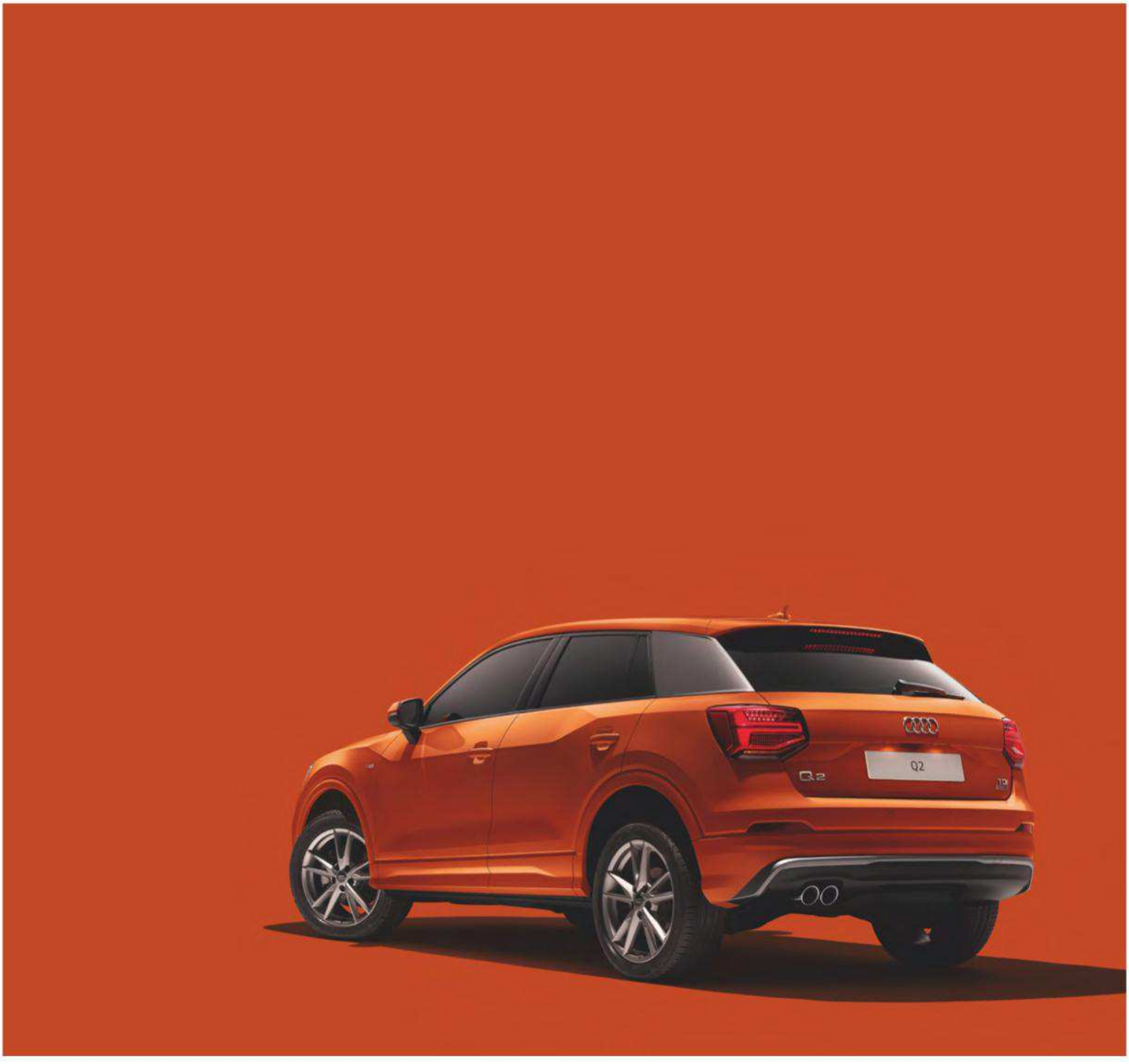
Mo-Joe
If you want to reinvigorate your running routine, listen here for tips and inspiration as Sir Mo Farah and The Body Coach, Joe Wicks, put newbie runner George Lamb through his paces.
audible.co.uk/mt/run

Motivate Yourself
Don't be put off by the occasional Alan Partridgean inflection, because psychotherapist Richard Nicholls is a sage, down-to-earth and engaging personal development speaker.
motivateyourself.co.uk

Inside Health
So many wellness podcasts deal in hyperbole and speculation that this statistic-driven offering from Radio 4, hosted by Mark Porter, is a welcome and trustworthy antidote.
bbc.co.uk/programmes

Jocko Podcast
For a caffeine-rich shot of unadulterated kickass, look no further than the wise, motivational musings of former US Navy Seal, John "Jocko" Willink.
John Naughton
jockopodcast.com

Photograph **Instagram/@zannavandijk**



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Once In A Lifetime

Cash rich, still time poor?

This is the trip for you... **The Greatest Day by White Desert**

OK, there is a slight catch when it comes to White Desert's Greatest Day trip... It starts in Cape Town. But once you are there, this breathtaking 24-hour excursion will blow your mind (and your budget). Taking off into the African night on a Gulfstream 500 private jet, guests fly over the Southern Ocean before landing on Ulvetanna Peak (Norwegian for "Wolf's Tooth") in Antarctica, where you will be met by polar guides who will see you abseil down glacial crevasses, climb sheer faces and explore blue ice grottos in the South Pole. You'll finish with a gourmet in-flight meal, which includes the very freshest sushi, wagyu beef and cocktails mixed with 1,000-year-old pure glacial ice, and be back before anyone knows you've left. **PH**

From £10,835. white-desert.com

Yoga Retreats

+ Three trips worth bending over backwards for

Best in Britain

Poundon House, Oxfordshire

The Roscoe family still live in this sprawling Edwardian country house, but daughters Natalie and Alicia run wellbeing retreats here and other teachers rent it for yoga weekends. It's quintessentially English, with grand drawing rooms and landscaped gardens, and just a short hop on the train from London. Suits beginners and up.

poundonhouse.com

Best in Europe

Centro Santillán, Spain

On a mountainside overlooking the Med, 20 minutes from Malaga, Santillán is an old finca-style boutique hotel turned yoga retreat. The light-filled shala has incredible views and a yoga wall for alignment work. Co-owner Simon Low, one of the UK's most respected teachers, runs regular weeks here. All levels welcome.

centrosantillan.com

Best in the world

Ulpotha, Sri Lanka

For a complete back-to-nature experience, head to Ulpotha. This enchanting ecovillage retreat deep in the forest of central Sri Lanka is so popular that some of the world's leading yoga teachers run holidays here. Accommodation is in mud huts, there are authentic ayurvedic treatments, exquisite meals and a cool lake for swimming. Good for intermediates. **Jane Dunford**

ulpotha.com

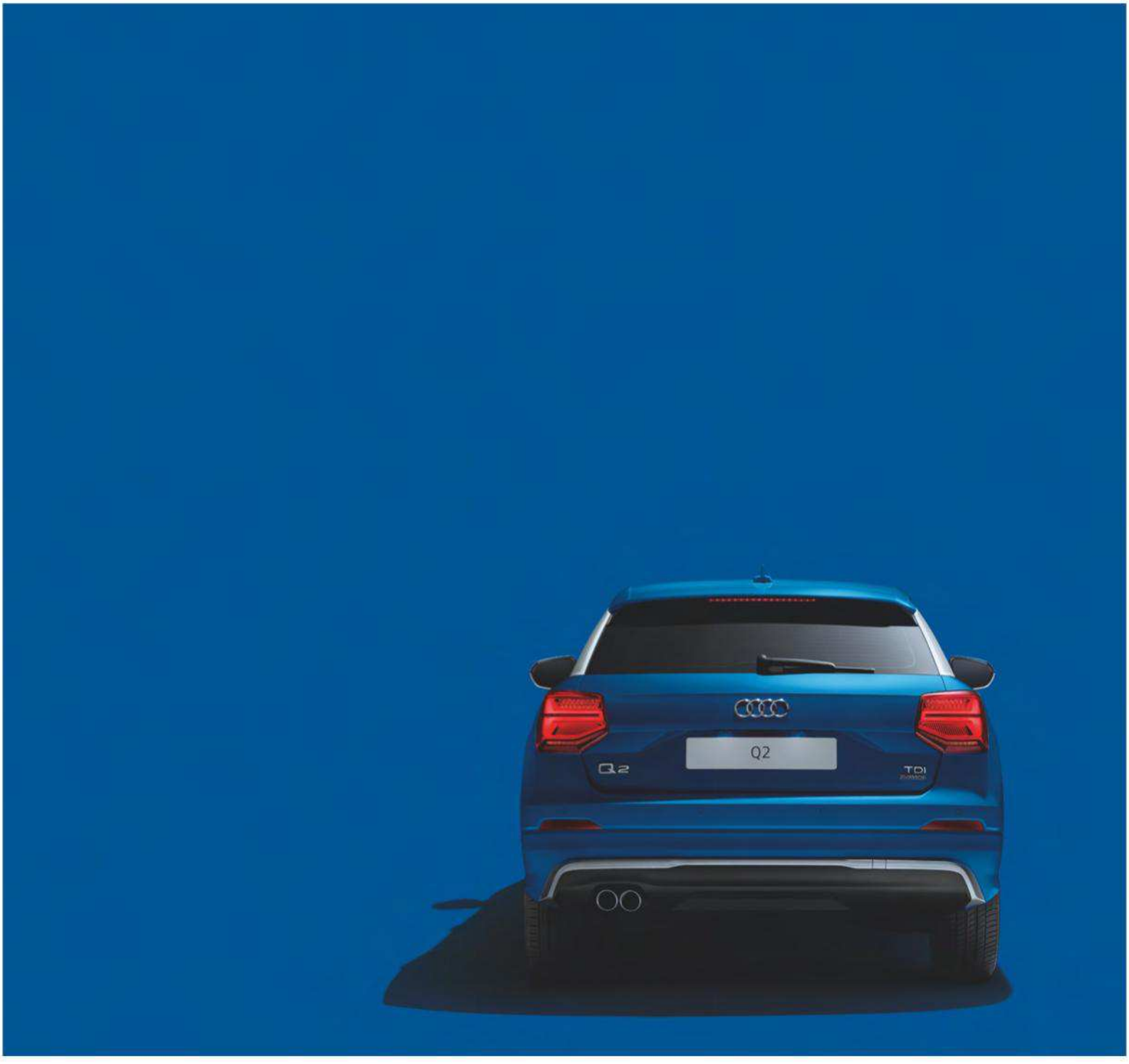
Gadget

Power Watch by Matrix

Introducing the personal tracker that's never off the clock

The Power Watch is a world first: the only wearable powered purely by thermoelectrics (ie, your own body heat keeps it going). Not only does it measure calories burned, activity levels and sleep, it will also display how much electrical energy you are producing. It is robust, waterproof to 50 metres and easy to use – the perfect tracker for people who never want to stop analysing their activity.

From £200. matrixindustries.com



And the kitchen sink **BLUE®**

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Standard EU Test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect 'real driving' results. Car shown features optional equipment. Image shown for illustrative purposes only.

Fitness

Ready for the summer?

Fitness expert Bradley Simmonds is pumped up for a holiday body masterclass

When you feel good you look your best, which gives you that extra confidence

After a session in the gym, Bradley Simmonds body shaves as the final step to looking his best

If you're planning to lounge on the beach or hit a pool party this summer, you're probably already thinking about how to ensure your body is at its best. As fitness expert Bradley Simmonds explains, the most important thing is preparation. Take your exercise routine, for example: "Eight to 12 weeks is a sufficient amount of time to make a noticeable difference without resorting to fad diets," he says. "Eat a variety of real food, be mindful of portion sizes, stay hydrated, sleep well and exercise consistently. Make it your main priority in those weeks prior to your holiday."

Once you've put in all that work in the gym, you're going to want to show it off. That's why for Simmonds, the final step in his fitness journey is shaving his body. "Body shaving makes me feel clean and fresh as well as improving my definition. When you feel good you look your best, which gives you that extra confidence," he says. He uses the NIVEA MEN Body Shaving Stick, which is transparent and works even in the shower. "I've been using NIVEA MEN since I began grooming and taking care of my skin as a teenager," he says. "It's all about simple, fuss-free skincare products that work and still feels luxurious."

The NIVEA MEN Body Shaving Stick is designed for use in the shower and allows simple and targeted application.

Fit and able

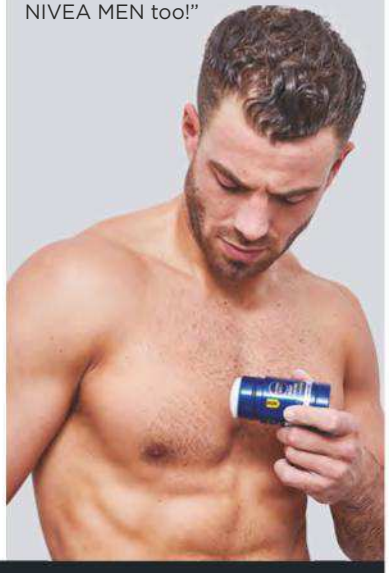
Simmonds reveals how to beat 'the wall', what's playing in his headphones and how his grandfather inspires him

What keeps you going when you hit a wall?
"Hitting a wall happens to the best of us, but I always try to remember why I started: whether that's my career as a whole or the specific challenge I'm facing. Then I tell myself that it would be such a waste of energy, time, hard work and passion if I simply gave up."

What are you listening to right now?
"Music depends on my mood, but at the moment when I want to chill I listen to London Grammar and when I need livening up I listen to Stormzy or Kasabian. So it's a real mix."

What's the best thing you can cook?
"My favourite signature dish is my sweet and spicy salmon with pak choi and brown basmati rice. It's my go-to dish if I need something quick with lots of flavour."

Who inspires you?
"My granddad John O'Neill is an incredible man. From a young age he always strived to be as fit as possible and still does at 80. 'Being busy is a good problem to have' is one of his favourite quotes, so his work ethic is admirable and I've always looked up to him because of this. I hope I look as good as him at that age. To be fair, I think he uses NIVEA MEN too!"



Watch Bradley Simmonds workout video at gq-magazine.co.uk

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Mane Attraction

Make the cut this season

Summertime and the hairstylin' is easy with this strand-by-strand guide

Story by **Teo van den Broeke** Illustrations by **Sam Gilbey**

Forget military-grade side partings and over-styled Mr Whippy up-dos. Right now, men's hair is taking a flamboyant turn. From the sherbet-hued buzzcuts, sported by the likes of by Jaden Smith and Frank Ocean, to the crystal-tipped bleached sweeps demonstrated by Zayn Malik and Lucky Blue Smith, when it comes to hair, 2018 is about anything but shying away. Here, *GQ*'s barber-in-residence, Carmelo Guastella, reveals this summer's four hottest hairstyles and how to get them yourself. First tip? Be brave.

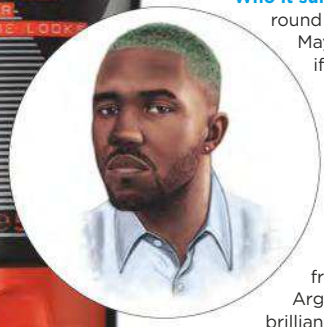
David Beckham

The beachy centre parting

How to get it: For this style you want the top to be longer than the sides. The bleach helps give texture, as will your barber using a point cutting technique. Avoid looking sleek, this style needs to be rough.

Who it suits: You'll need straight or wavy hair and plenty of it. Thin tresses won't work. This cut best suits oval faces.

The product: To keep it looking textured yet clean, use Fudge's Dry Shampoo (*£8.99. At mankind.co.uk*). Be sure to use a mousse such as Fudge's Xpander Foam (*£12. At mankind.co.uk*) to maintain texture. Once applied, use a hair dryer and apply a spot of leave-in lotion, such as American Crew's Light Hold Texture Lotion (*£13. americancrew.com*).



Frank Ocean

The sherbet buzzcut

How to get it: This is a classic clipper cut with faded sides. Ask for the lower edges to be buzzed at 0.5, blended up to a grade one. On top, the length should be 1.5. This style won't need much maintenance, but get a regular trim to keep it sharp.

Who it suits: A buzzcut best suits round or heart-shaped faces. Maybe not one for you if you've got sticky-out ears or areas of considerable thinning. Colour-wise, get it done professionally and in a Refreshers-worthy hue.

The product Curly hair would benefit from Gielly Green's Argan Rescue Works. It's brilliant at controlling frizz. Other hair types need no styling products (*£22. giellygreen.co.uk*).

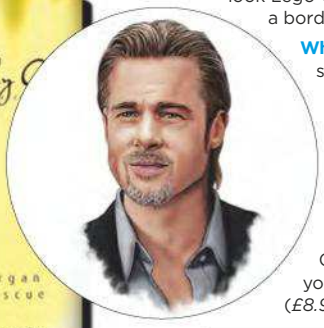
Lucky Blue Smith

The bleached sweep

How to get it: Ask for the fringe to be longer on top (around 12cm), graduating to 4cm or so at the crown, with the sides cut to approximately 1cm.

Who it suits: If you are going for fully bleached ends, this works better on fine hair. As for texture, naturally wavy is best, but curls can be relaxed and straight hair scruffed up with product for maximum control and natural finish. Face shape? Youngish oval.

The product: On dry hair, apply Redken Mattifying Powder Grip 03 generously at the roots (*£12. redken.com*).



Brad Pitt

The extra-long slick back

How to get it: Grow your hair out on top to around 10-12cm. The sides and back need to be around 4-5cm. Ends should be thinned out to not look Lego-esque. It's effectively a borderline mullet, after all.

Who it suits: For this style it's best to have straight hair. It also suits a strong, square jaw.

The product: To keep hair from flopping down, streak with Fudge Hair Gum Controlling Gel using your hands. That's all (*£8.99. At mankind.com*).

CARMELO GUASTELLA IS MEN'S GROOMING DIRECTOR AT GIELLY GREEN. *GIELLYGREEN.CO.UK*

Fragrances by **Louis Vuitton**, from £185 for 100ml. louisvuitton.com

Uncommon Scents

No sir, duty free does not stock LV*

Last year, Louis Vuitton launched its first-ever fragrance collection. Aimed at women, the ultra-luxe packaging and boutique-only retail strategy made it a huge success. Now, LV is launching a collection of male scents. Inspired by the Parisian behemoth's travel-focused heritage, the collection consists of five fragrances: the spicy L'Immensité; the warm Nouveau Monde; the earthy Orage; the woody Au Hasard and (*GQ*'s personal favourite) the fresh and cool Sur La Route. Available this month exclusively from (you guessed it) the brand's boutiques, the fragrance collection is just the thing to pack in your Vuitton trunk or, of course, to buy if you're a fan of superior quality scents.

Story by **Teo van den Broeke** Photograph by **Josh Caudwell**

*Except, naturally, at Heathrow Terminal 5

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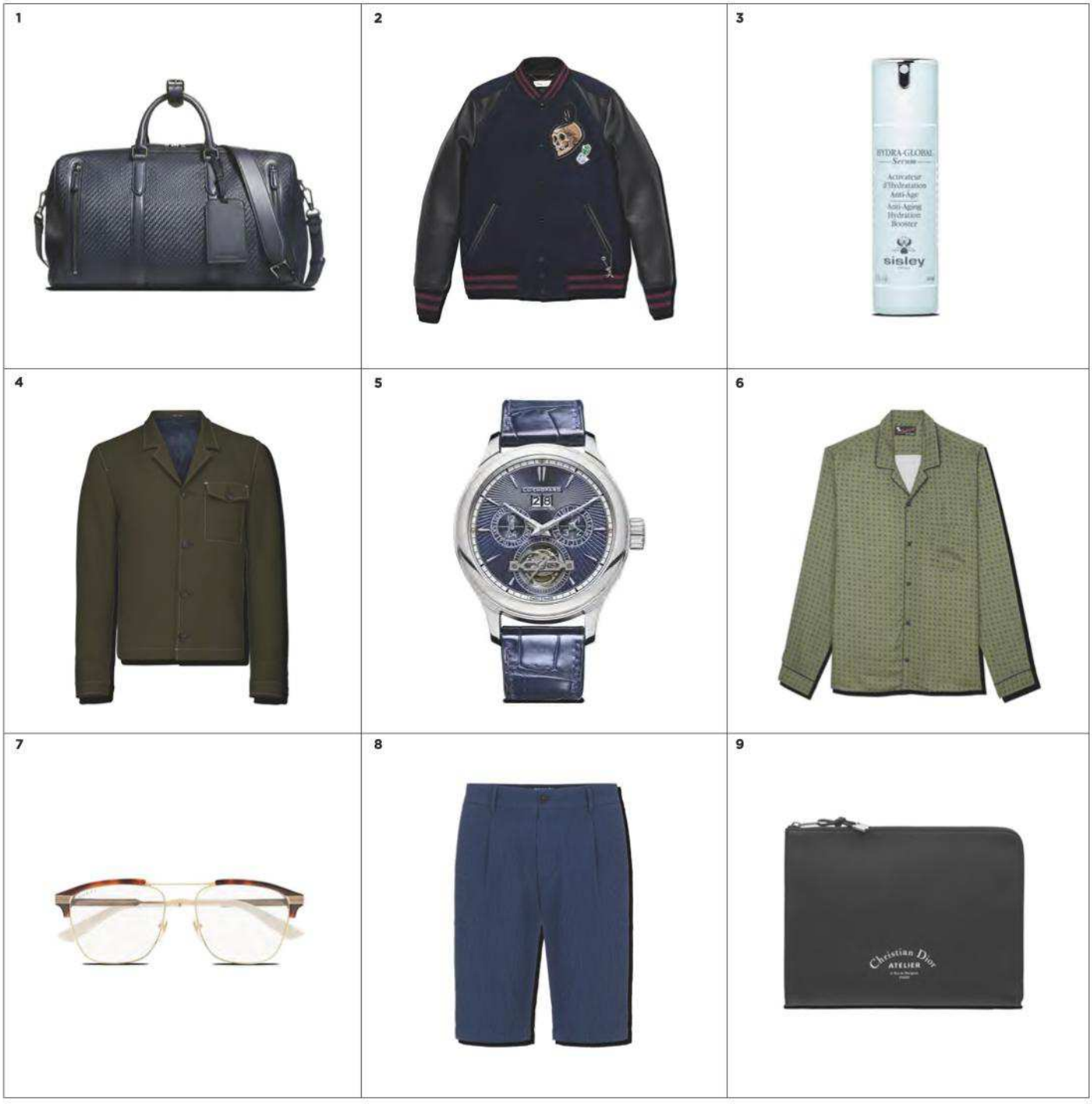
The GQ Preview: June

Edited by **Holly Roberts**

Bringing you the very latest in fashion, grooming, watches, news and exclusive events



1 ▶ Holdall by **Ermenegildo Zegna**, £3,265. zegna.co.uk **2** ▶ Varsity jacket by **Coach X Disney**, £750. coach.com
3 ▶ Sisley Hydra-Global Serum Anti-Aging Hydration Booster by **Sisley**, £179. sisley-paris.co.uk **4** ▶ Jacket by **Tiger Of Sweden**, £399. tigerofsweden
5 ▶ L. U. C. All-In-One by **Chopard**, POR. chopard.com **6** ▶ Shirt by **The Kooples**, £115. thekooples.co.uk
7 ▶ Glasses by **Gucci**, £320. gucci.com **8** ▶ Shorts by **Woolrich**, £130. woolrich.eu **9** ▶ Portfolio by **Dior Homme**, £1,100. dior.com

We love

MCM x Puma

Dip your toes into the latest collaboration from heritage sportswear brand Puma and luxury aficionados, MCM. Merging two strong aesthetics, this collaboration sees the re-imagining of the classic Puma suede trainers adorned with MCM's famous monogram. But it doesn't stop at your footwear. Go the extra mile by investing in the tracksuit. Trust us, you won't regret it. MCM X Puma collaboration is available in stores from mid-May.

Trainers by **MCM**, £300. mcmworldwide.com

Photograph **Matthew Beedle**

How to

Pack for a weekend retreat

If escaping the city and finding a relaxing weekend spot is on your agenda, then it's time to get acquainted with The Artist Residence, Oxford. Nestled in the countryside and bursting with bohemian English charm, the six-bedroom residency is the perfect stop to indulge in some good old-fashioned R&R. From dinner in Mr Hanbury's Dining Room to a lazy all-day spot at the bar, the Artist Residence is the ultimate stop-off for the modern-day traveller. Those checking in for the night should be sure to pack practically. Leave the stuffy suit at home and opt instead for luxury essentials that will keep you both cosy and comfortable.

Dress down but stay sharp with this denim shirt from Calvin Klein Jeans. Swap out the derby shoes for these suede and Merino performance trainers from Brooks Brothers, and throw all of your overnight essentials into this sumptuous suede holdall from Berluti. All that's left is to sit back and switch off (your mind, not your phone – it's Instagram gold). *Artist Residence, Station Road, South Leigh, Oxfordshire, OX29 6XN. artistresidence.co.uk*

1. Shirt by **Calvin Klein Jeans**, £115. calvinklein.co.uk **2.** Holdall by **Berluti**, £2,940. berluti.com
3. Sunglasses by **Canali**, £280. canali.com **4.** Trainers by **Brooks Brothers**, £210. brooksbrothers.com
5. Bracelet by **Shamballa Jewels**, £8,350. shamballajewels.com **6.** Polo shirt by **Berluti**, £790. berluti.com

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For over 150 years, London has
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Fire in the belly

Since the dawn of time, control of flames has separated man from beast. As the primitive joy of the barbecue refuses to die down, GQ takes food back to basics

Story by **Mark Hix** Photographs by **Jonathan Kennedy**

In the past few years, cooking over wood and charcoal has increased in popularity, with more and more professional kitchens installing Josper ovens and even having bespoke firepits made. But as people get serious about what sort of barbecue they use, it's worth remembering that its fuel is as integral as the ingredients you cook on it. This is where the type of wood you select comes in – its quality will dictate what sort of results you get. Matching wood to what you are cooking may seem too much, but you shop for wine to go with your food so why not find the right material to cook over?

The go-to pyromaniac and purveyor of fine artisan fuel is Mark Parr, whose business, The London Log Company, produces and supplies varieties of wood and charcoal to top London restaurants and serious home cooks. I visited him in Kent on Lord Falmouth's 1,400-acre Mereworth estate near Maidstone, where different woods are seasoned and dried and big kilns are constantly producing charcoal. (The estate has a history of charcoal production and even employs apprentices to learn this almost forgotten craft.)

Having been brought up to rely on sophisticated electronic combination ovens that contribute nothing to flavour, a lot of cooks haven't experienced cooking with natural wood and charcoal. Indeed, give the average chef some wood, matches and an outdoor grill – plus a carcass to joint – and you may well not get fed. Here are five fire recipes to help you avoid being one of them.

1 Piri piri leg of lamb (above)

Serves 6-8

Get your butcher to bone out your leg of lamb completely and leave it flat, not rolled up and tied as usual.

- 1 leg of lamb, boned

For the marinade

- 100ml rapeseed oil
- 2 red peppers, roughly chopped
- 15g dried red chillies
- 100g tomato purée
- Salt and pepper

Method

- Heat the rapeseed oil in a heavy-bottomed pan. Add the red peppers and chillies and cook for around 5 minutes until soft. Add the tomato purée and continue to cook for another 5 minutes. Season with salt and pepper.
- Blend until smooth.
- Put the leg of lamb on a nonreactive tray. Rub the marinade into the lamb before covering with cling film and leaving in the fridge overnight.
- Light your barbecue or wood-fired oven and cook the lamb for about 20-30 minutes, with the lid of the barbecue on (if it has one). Turn it every so often and brush with any extra marinade while keeping it pink. If the lamb is burning then move it to a cooler part of the barbecue.
- To finish, put the lamb on a board and cut into slices or chunks.

2 Barbecued mackerel with Essaouira salad

Serves 4

This is typical of the salads served on the quayside in Essaouira, Morocco. It works really well with oily fish, such as sardines or mackerel, as the acidity of the preserved lemons cuts the oiliness of the fish in a refreshingly tart way. Ras el hanout is a rich and complex Moroccan spice mix that is slightly different wherever you buy it, but tends to feature ginger, galangal, anise, cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves, cardamom, mace and turmeric, with crushed dried flowers such as lavender and rose.

- 4 mackerel, gutted and cleaned
- 2 tsp ras el hanout
- Salt and pepper

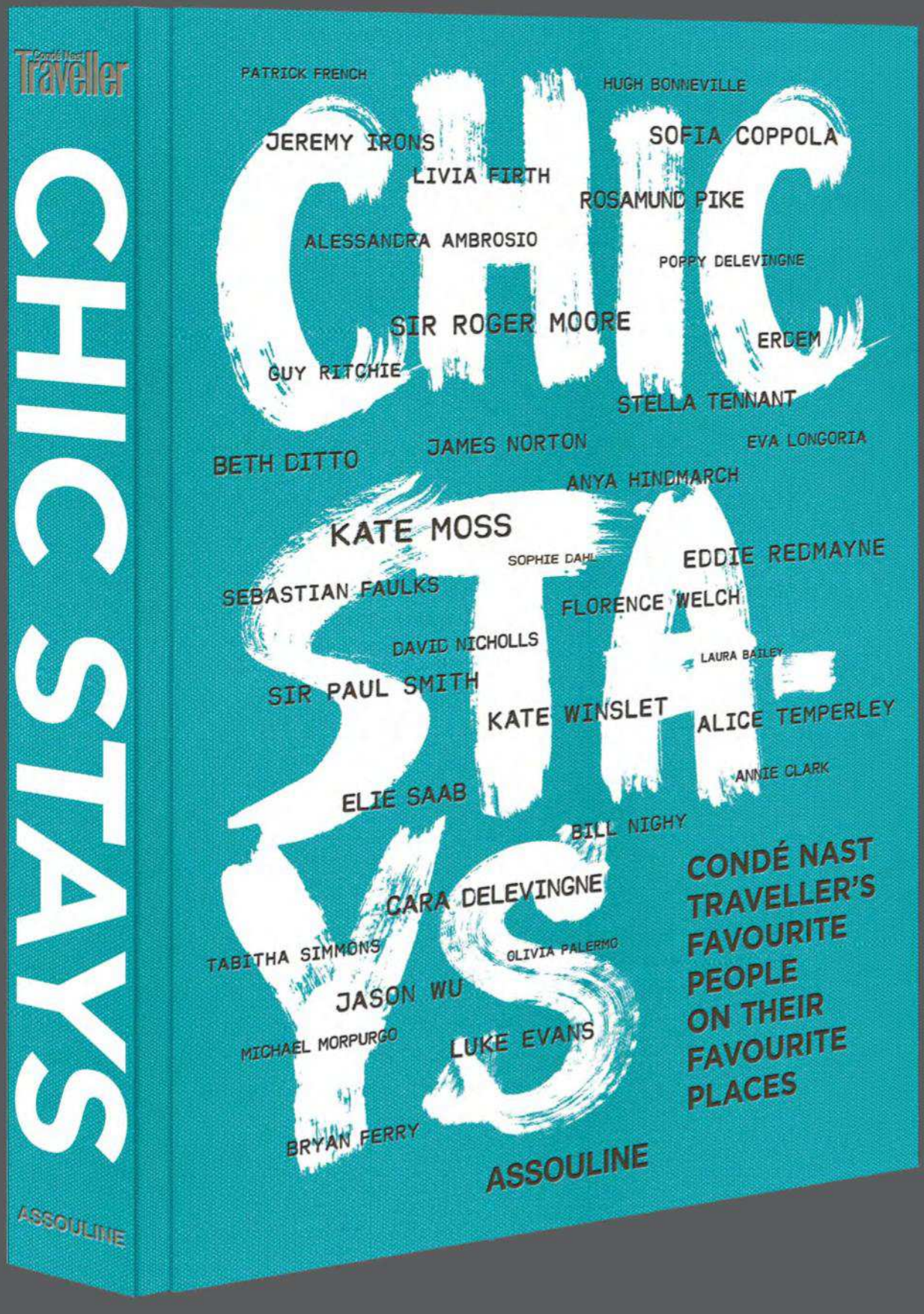
For the salad

- 2 large green peppers
- 3 ripe tomatoes, skinned, deseeded and cut into rough 1cm dice
- 4 spring onions, chopped
- 6 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil, plus more for brushing
- 2 tbsp white wine vinegar
- 1 small garlic clove, crushed
- Peel from 1 large or 2 small preserved lemons, cut into small dice

Method

- Cut the peppers into 4 lengthways and put them on a tray. Grill them, skin-side-up, for about 10 minutes or until the skin blackens. Remove from the tray, put into a bowl, cover with cling film and leave for about 10 minutes. Remove the skin with your fingers or by scraping with a knife.
- Dice the peppers roughly and put them in a bowl with the tomatoes, spring onions, olive oil, vinegar, garlic and preserved lemon. Season with salt and freshly ground black pepper and mix well.
- Ensure the barbecue is extra hot. Make diagonal slashes across each side of the fish, brush them with olive oil and rub about ½ tsp of ras el hanout into the skin and season. Grill the fish for about 3 minutes on each side until the skin begins to crisp.
- Serve with the salad and some good crusty bread. >>

Mark Hix's barbecued lamb kidneys and sweetbreads alongside piri piri leg of lamb



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Know your wood

Sweet chestnut

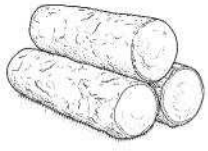
Chestnut has a medium to hard density and doesn't burn quickly, making it the perfect wood for Asian dishes for which the meat, fish or vegetables rely on simple cooking flavours. It's also great for different cuts of lamb and, mixed with other woods, such as oak, is often used by Italians for fuelling pizza ovens.

Silver birch

The mineral, zesty flavour birch gives off when burnt is great with aged beef, game or venison, or vegetables including asparagus and courgette.

Beech

The light colour gives the impression that beech is a soft wood, but in fact it's extremely hard and is often cut into thin shards to release its flavour when burning. It smoulders like an incense stick, giving off a herbal aroma similar to camomile tea. Beech works well with oily fish and lighter meats.



Alder

Thanks to its high levels of polysaccharides, alder gives off a sweet scent, almost like the effect of dropping sugar or honey into the barbecue. It makes a perfect pairing for marinated meats and in Scandinavia is often used to smoke fish, which gives variety to, say, traditional oak.

Illustrations **Harry Bates**

3

Barbecued lamb kidneys and sweetbreads

Serves 4

I love cooking offal over wood or charcoal. It reminds me of the many Turkish grill restaurants in North London. You can add some chunks of lamb liver to this if you like.

- 4 bamboo skewers soaked in water, or metal skewers
- 12 pieces of plump lamb heart sweetbreads
- 6 lamb kidneys, halved and any sinew removed
- Salt and pepper
- 2 tsp sumac (optional)
- A little oil for brushing

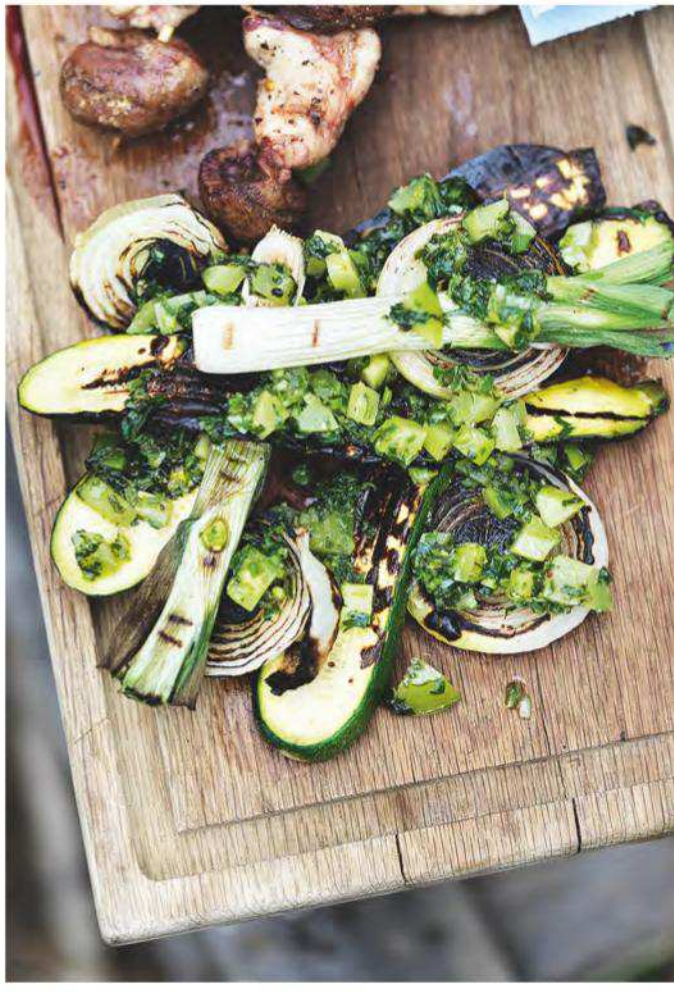
Method

- Light a barbecue or wood-fired oven and wait until it is extra hot. Put the sweetbreads in a pan and cover with salted water. Bring to the boil and drain.
- Once cool, remove any sinew. Next, alternate them on the skewers with the kidneys.
- Lightly oil and season, then grill for 3-4 minutes, turning the skewers as they cook.
- Remove from the heat, season with sumac and serve.

Several chefs from around the world have made a name for themselves by cooking on open fires. The American chef Bobby Flay has a fantastic reputation and more recently I've become friends with another expert, André Lima De Luca, or "the master of meat and fire" as he is sometimes described. De Luca believes the main thing about live fire cooking is that it's always a challenge – one day is never the same as the next. You can use the same amount of wood or charcoal, but you will have different conditions dependent on humidity, wind, weather, temperature and so on. You need to respect the fire and this requires a lot of patience, practice and humility. De Luca has become my charming aficionado and his philosophy to cooking over fire is similar to my own: simple and straightforward.

4

Aubergine salad



Serves 4-6

It's important to burn the aubergine skin slightly to give the salad a smokey flavour. The red peppers that the Turkish use look like giant elongated chillies and are slightly piquant without being hot. Even if you are having a barbecue, you may want to get this ready in advance, rather than making it in front of guests and keeping them waiting.

- 3 medium-sized aubergines
- 1 long red pepper, halved and seeded
- 2 cloves of garlic, peeled and crushed
- 150ml extra-virgin olive oil
- Juice of half a lemon
- Salt and pepper
- 2-3 tbsp Greek yoghurt to serve
- A few sprigs of flat leaf parsley

Method

- Cook the whole aubergines and pepper on a barbecue for about 15 minutes, turning them every so often until the skin blackens.
- Remove from the grill. When cool, peel and finely chop the pepper.
- Halve the aubergines and scoop the flesh onto a chopping board. Chop the flesh over several times until it's almost a purée, then put into a bowl with the garlic, olive oil, lemon, salt and pepper.
- To serve, spoon the mixture onto a plate, make a well in the centre and spoon the yoghurt. Sprinkle with chopped parsley and serve with warmed Turkish flatbread.
- Serve the salad at room temperature. >>

5

Wood-fired scallops with Japanese dressing

Serves 4

A wood-fired oven isn't just for pizza. Delicate things, such as scallops, really do take on the flavour of the burning wood without being destroyed. Cooking on fire is more about adding an extra "ingredient" to the dish.

- 4 large dived scallops, shucked and kept in the half shell
- Salt and pepper
- A little rapeseed oil

For the dressing

- 1 shallot
- 1 small carrot
- 30g root ginger
- 4-5cm of celery
- ½ small red chilli
- 1 small clove of garlic, crushed
- 1 tbsp tomato ketchup

Method

- It's important to make the dressing the day before so that the flavours infuse.
- Peel and finely chop the shallot, carrot, ginger, celery and chilli (getting the full effect will be a real test of your knife skill) and mix well with the crushed garlic and tomato ketchup.
- Season your scallops and brush with a little rapeseed oil, then cook them in the shell in the wood-fired oven for 3-4 minutes or for 2 minutes on each side on a hot barbecue.
- To serve, drizzle the scallops with dressing.

Over the years I've collected all sorts of small portable barbecues, mainly for taking to the riverbank for fishing lunches with my friend Robin Hutson from The Pig hotels and Lime Wood. They include the EzyStove I picked up in my hometown of Bridport, which is fed with twigs you can gather on the way to the river, as well as a simple Tuscan, cast-iron barbecue and the mini Big Green Egg which is insulated so you can use it like an oven. There is also the clever little foldable one I bought from Muji about 15 years ago, not to mention the smartly insulated Cobb barbecue that smoulders away nicely on my boat without burning a hole through the deck. (Cooking a piece of fish fresh out of the water is a fantastic thing.) You may think owning five barbecues is obsessive, but keen cooks are fussy about the look of their cooking range at home, so I suppose it's important to have something equally visual in the garden. Ox Grills look as if they've come out of a Victorian country house kitchen, but are designed to be kept outdoors. If you want to start your own collection, you can't go wrong with these three great models...

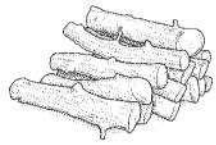
On a budget..
Compact by Weber
Small but serious, this offers Weber quality for a bargain price.
£79.99. weber.com

For all-year cooking...
Big Green Egg
The big, green ceramic machine is a cracking piece of kit.
£950. biggreenegg.co.uk

For showing off...
Everdure by Heston Blumenthal
The Heston Blumenthal of barbecues, designed by... Heston Blumenthal.
£1,499. everdurebyheston.co.uk

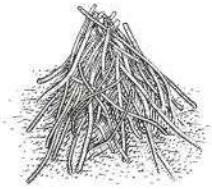
Apple

This fruitwood is one of my favourite trees to both cook and smoke with. It burns with a bit of acidity – rather like the marriage between sharp apple sauce and pork, which is the obvious thing to cook over it.



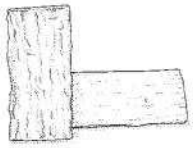
Pear

Pearwood produces a slightly lighter smoke than apple. The tannins in these woods give off a wonderful aroma that will transmit a mellow, nutty tang to the food.



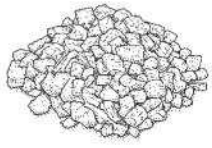
Vine twigs

Years ago, in Bordeaux, I enjoyed a classic dish of entrecôte bordelaise, cooked over vine twigs. You could happily serve a sauce made from grape varieties and the meat cooked over their twigs.



English oak

A hard wood popular in furniture making, oak is commonly used for smoking salmon, due to its resistance to burning and consequently heavy smoke.



Coconut bark

While fishing in the Bahamas last year, I used some coconut bark to cook mahi-mahi. I'm sure other tropical trees such as banana have great things to offer barbecue enthusiasts. GQ

Illustrations **Harry Bates**

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David Gandy

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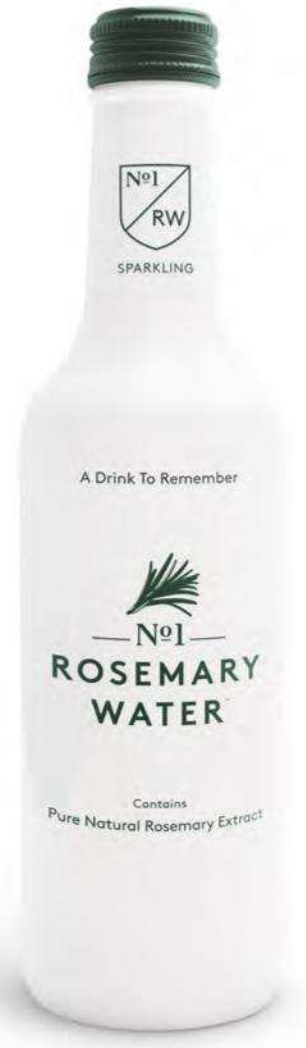
VITABIOTICS



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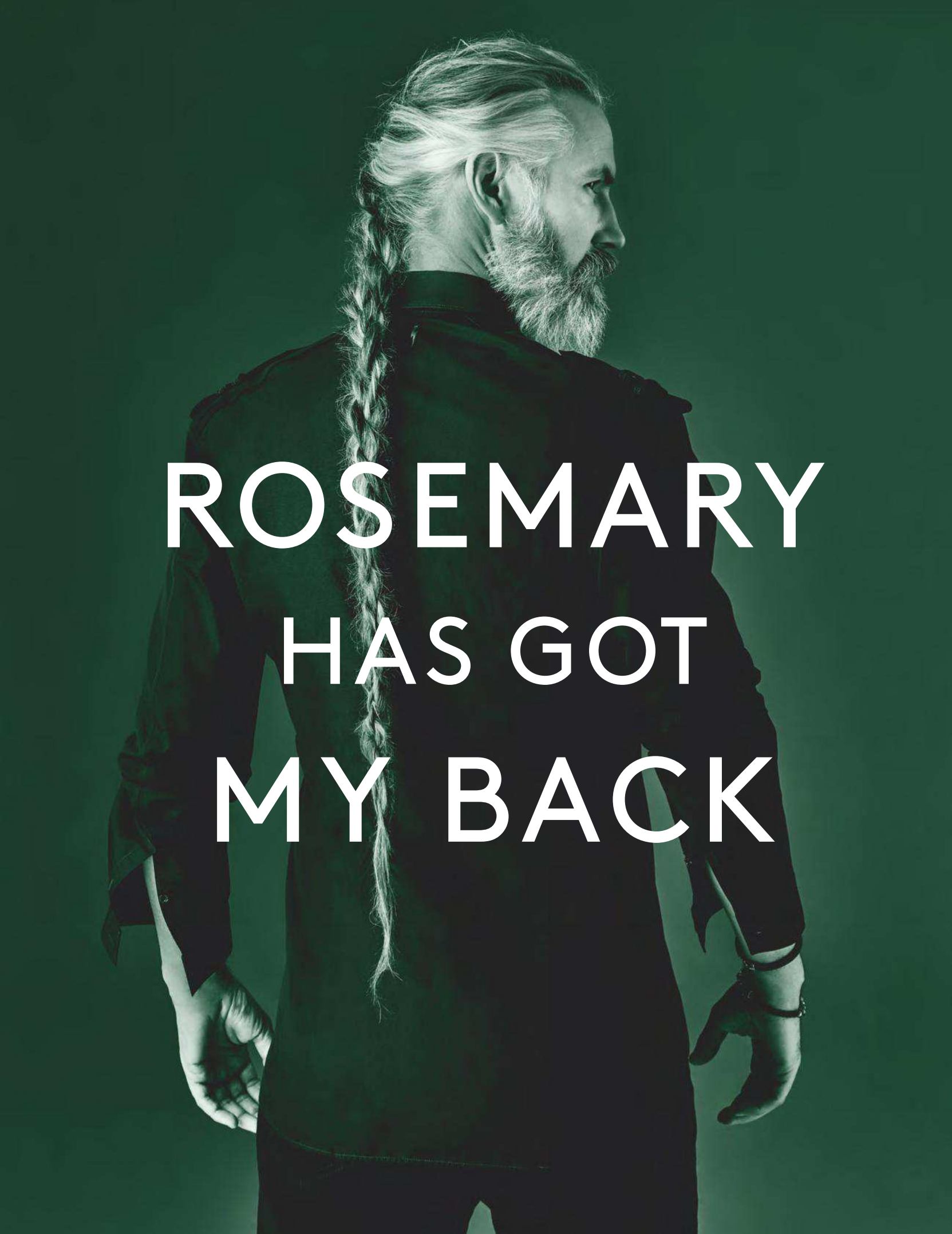

ROSEMARY
HAS GOT
MY BACK

Elvis and Priscilla Presley's shotgun Vegas wedding, 1 May 1967

The GQ Knot

No man aspires to be a groom who wakes up on his wedding day, throws on a suit and scribbles his speech on the back of a napkin. That's why we've compiled all the advice you need to make your big day the most special, most stylish day of your life. Remember: the proposal is only the beginning...

Edited by **Nick Carvell**

Groom Icons

Stylish suitors to follow down the aisle

Pro tip: you'll want to feel peak-handsome at your wedding, so it's a worthy excuse to self-gift yourself a suit in which you'll feel incredible. But we live at a time when a groom's options extend well beyond traditional morning dress, so where do you start? Good news. We've put together a whole look book of well-dressed men on their big day for inspiration.

Story by **Nick Carvell**

Photographs EI; Getty Images; Johannes Huebl; Instagram/@arlenissosa; Spread Pictures

That waistcoat means you'll look smart when you take your jacket off to dance

1. Mick Jagger

Three-piece suits are an excellent option. Not only is it sleek for the ceremony, but that waistcoat means you'll still look smart when you take your jacket off on the dance floor.

2. James Righton

If you're spending good money on a suit, you'll want to reuse it. If this is a priority, navy is best as it will look great on the day and transition nicely into almost any smart-casual situation.

3. Donnie McGrath

Choose a colour that's present in the wedding (on the flowers, for example) and commit to it. The most effective way to wear this is by going tonal, so choose shades of the same colour for your accessories.

4. Kanye West

The reason many men opt for a tuxedo is that you can't help but feel confident and powerful when wearing one. Keep it classic (peak lapel, black accessories) and your wedding photos will never date.

5. Jamie Hince

Sometimes it's all about the shade. A lighter pastel blue still feels smart, but automatically brings a certain romance to proceedings. Amp up the out-of-office vibe with a floral tie.

6. Johannes Huebl

Who says it's only the bride who can wear white? A white suit is superbly summery – just be sure to go for a cotton or linen fabric (nothing that has a shine) and keep it grounded with navy accessories.

Wash away pre-wedding jitters

Let all that big day tension slip away by using these products on your wedding morning. They're packed with essential oils that help balance your mind and make you look good in the process

After months of planning, preparation and pulling your hair out over the political intricacies of the seating plan, your wedding day is the time to let go of all that stress and enjoy yourself. However, whether you're having a big wedding or a small one, there might still be some tension nibbling at you as you get ready – especially if you're still looking for the final zinger line for your after-dinner speech.

Our advice? Don't sweat it and spend a bit more time prepping yourself instead. Start the day de-stressed by investing in a few grooming products packed with essential oils that will not only make you look your best, but that are proven to help unwind your mind and energise your body. Start the day right with these four groom's grooming cabinet essentials – because, let's face it, Great Aunt Hilda's going to be just fine on the children's table.

▲ Moisturiser

Eco Marine Extract Facial Cream by Haeckels

Lavender oil is one of the best-known stress-beating scents out there. And as well as helping to calm your body and mind on the big day, if you apply it after you wash your face before bed, it can also help you sleep better the night before.

£48 for 60ml. At mrporter.com

▼ Hair

Styling Concrete by Le Labo

You're going to have to remember a lot of names over the course of your wedding. Citrus is a well-known energiser – so boost your brain power and alertness (while making sure your hair stays looking sharp, obviously) with Le Labo's Styling Concrete, which is infused with a splash of bergamot.

£22 for 60g. lelabofragrances.com

▶ Face wash

Rose Facial Wash by Neal's Yard

Rose is known to soothe and rehydrate your skin (as well as helping prevent wrinkles) and the scent will calm any last-minute nerves. Flowers: not just for the bride.

£17 for 100ml. nealsyardremedies.com

▲ Body wash

Vetiver Root, Green Tea, Cedarwood shower gel by Korres

This shower gel is a de-stressing double whammy on a day when your emotions will be running wild: vetiver is known for its calming properties, while green tea helps improve mental focus and relax the mind.

£9 for 250ml. At Liberty. libertylondon.com

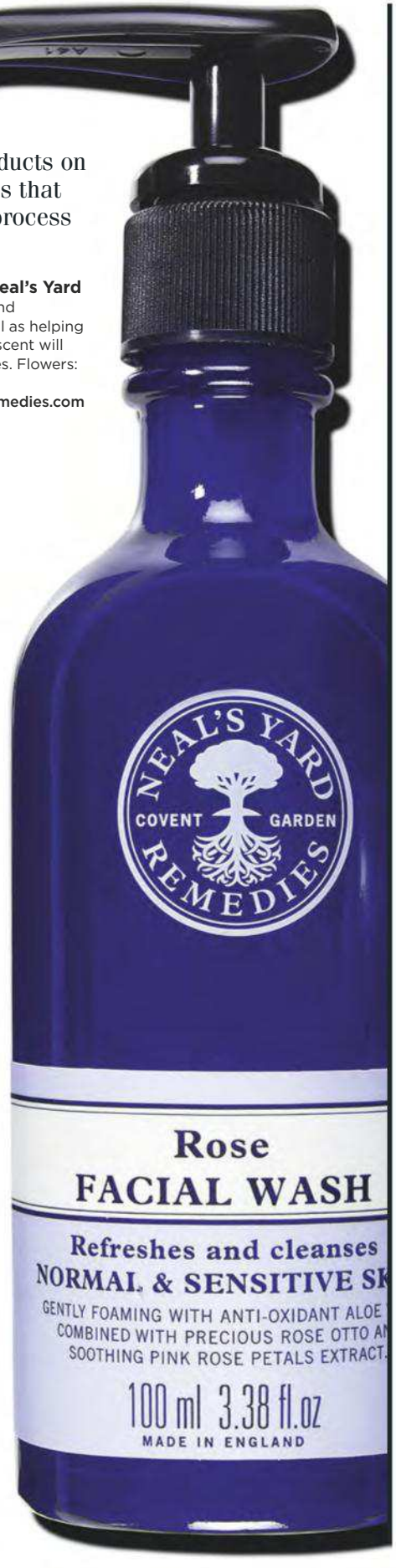
On the day...

▲ Concealer

For Men by Tom Ford

Stress can lead to breakouts – which is hardly ideal on a day when you're constantly having your photograph taken. If you wake up with a spot or two in the morning, invest in a slim concealer stick that you can keep on you at all times to cover them. That's one less thing to worry about.

£33. tomfordbeauty.co.uk



The scents to suit your wedding

Country wedding

A wedding drenched in greenery needs a light, uplifting scent to match – and Jo Malone London's zingy Grapefruit Cologne (mixed with fresh notes of rosemary and peppermint) is just the ticket. **£90 for 100ml. jomalone.co.uk**

Black-tie wedding

If you're going formal, you need a scent that's as smart as your tux. Acqua Di Parma's Colonia Essenza is packed with superbly summery citrus notes and rich musk.

£73 for 50ml. At John Lewis. johnlewis.com

City wedding

A wedding in town calls for something sophisticated to spritz on. Cuir Obscur, from Swedish perfumer Byredo, has bold, masculine notes of leather spliced with sweet amaretto.

£142 for 100ml. At Harrods. harrods.com

How To

...wear your suit after the big day

Your wedding suit should make you feel incredible, but it can also work for you long after the reception has come to an end. Buy right and it will slip seamlessly into your everyday life. Here are four looks to prove it

For the wedding

A deep, dark blue is the most versatile suit colour a man can own. Go for a subtle pattern for added interest and amp up its formality by investing in a matching waistcoat. Sleek, simple, timeless.

Suit, £945. Shirt, £65. Both by **Boss**. hugoboss.com. Waistcoat by **Massimo Dutti**, £80. massimodutti.com. Tie by **Daks**, £85. daks.com. Shoes by **Russell & Bromley**, £195. russellandbromley.com

At the weekend

Just like you and your partner on honeymoon, once the wedding has finished it's time to let your suit relax. Be the boss of brunch-appropriate dressing by slipping it on with a white T-shirt, sneakers and a cool pair shades.

Suit, £945. T-shirt, £55. Shoes, £269. All by **Boss**. hugoboss.com. Sunglasses by **Oliver Peoples**, £254. oliverpeoples.com

In the office

Sure, you can wear it with a tie, but for a smarter take on casual Friday, try your suit with a punchy-coloured jumper and zingy socks. Because no man got promoted for blending into the background.

Suit by **Boss**, £945. hugoboss.com. Jumper, £35. Shoes, £79. Both by **Marks & Spencer**. marksandspencer.com. Shirt by **Tiger Of Sweden**, £119. tigerofsweden.com. Socks by **Falke**, £15. falke.com

At the bar

While you might think of a suit as a sober wardrobe staple, it can definitely let its hair down too. Give it a Seventies vibe with an eye-catching shirt, loafers and a ballsy belt. Groovy.

Suit by **Boss**, £945 hugoboss.com. Shirt by **Topman**, £32. topman.com. Shoes by **Tom Ford**, £990. tomford.co.uk. Belt by **Gucci**, £270. gucci.com

Photographs **Florian Renner** Styling **Angelo Mitakos** Grooming **Maarit Niemela** Model **Michiel Van Wyngaarden at Models 1**

+I dos and don'ts Four tailors' tips for marital bliss

"Remember that things such as buttons can swapped out by your tailor for something more versatile to ensure your suit can be useful way beyond your wedding."
Antonia Ede, Montague Ede. montagueede.com

"Take your time during the fitting process and say exactly what you want. You'll be looking at photographs of yourself on the big day for the rest of your life, so make sure you're perfectly happy."
Richard James. richardjames.com

"Make sure your material is fit for purpose. Fresco cloth retains the formality of wool, while allowing breathability in the summer heat. If the wedding is more casual, Italian linen will look right and work as separates after the big day."
Patrick Johnson, P Johnson. pjt.com

"If it's a black-tie wedding, I would recommend choosing a one-button peak or shawl lapel, or possibly a three-piece tux, in midnight blue as it always photographs beautifully."
Luke Sweeney, Thom Sweeney. thomsweeney.co.uk

1

Steven McRae, 32, principal dancer, The Royal Ballet
(married August 2011)

"Stand true to what you and your partner want when planning your day, without being dictated to by others. Keep it simple and timeless and let the focus be on celebrating the two of you."

2

Ben Andrews, 36, farmer
(married September 2016)

"Our biggest thing was just ripping up the rule book. My best friend was our 'celebrant', we had 12 'best man' speeches from our male and female ushers and there was no walking down the aisle or giving away. Our day, our rules."

3

John Pearson, 52, model and television producer
(married September 1994)

"Take the time to write a good speech. Make it short, snappy and, most of all, sincere. Your future children will no doubt watch it on video many times – and laugh at you – so make it count."

Advice

'What I wish I'd known'

We're not going to lie, planning a wedding is a big gig – and after it's all over there will inevitably be some things about tying the knot that you wish you'd known in advance. *GQ* is here to help. We asked six of the most stylish married men we know what advice they'd give to any soon-to-be groom.

4

Simon Chard, 31, cosmetic dentist
(married May 2015)

"Make sure you give your shoes a good walking-in before your wedding. My wife bought me a pair of Paul Smith single-monkstraps, which I received that morning. They were beautiful, but by the end of a whole day of walking around and dancing my feet were in agony!"

5

Rajin Mehta, 37, head of sales, family business
(married October 2017)

"If you're having an Indian wedding, be mindful that before the ceremony the men from your wife's side will steal your shoes. Have plenty of cash on you, as you will need to negotiate to get them back, or make sure you have your biggest friends around you – it can get out of hand."

6

Jim Chapman, 30, vlogger
(married September 2015)

"I wish someone had warned me how emotional I would be. Standing at the top of the aisle I was all smiles, but then she came walking towards me and I lost it. My throat lumped, my eyes teared and my nose ran. Our wedding video features a wobbly voice and plenty of sniffs."

GQ Quiz

How to choose the honeymoon

1. If you could only take one pair of shoes on your honeymoon, what would it be?
a) Gucci horsebit loafers.
b) Rivieras espadrilles.
c) Red Wing hiking boots.

2. Your idea of an ideal day with your partner involves...
a) Checking out an art exhibition.
b) Chilling out at home.
c) Hitting a yoga class together.

3. You've had a crazy week. What do you do at the weekend?
a) Something cultural.
b) Relax and watch a movie.
c) Get outside and explore.

4. What sort of hotel room do you enjoy?
a) Sophisticated and luxurious.
b) One with its own pool.
c) Isolated and surrounded by greenery.

5. How important is it for you to get a tan on your honeymoon?
a) I'll be too busy inside historic buildings to worry about a tan.
b) I've already bought sunscreen.
c) If the sun comes out, that would be a bonus.

Mostly a)

The Gritti Palace, Venice, Italy

Located on the famous Grand Canal, The Gritti Palace has all the opulence and history you could want – author Ernest Hemingway lived in the Presidential Suite in the Forties and Fifties. If that's not enough, you can take a cookery class at the hotel's culinary school or have a couple's massage in the Acqua Di Parma spa.
From £7,990 a night. thegrittipalace.com

Mostly b)

Pretty Beach House, Australia

Sounds like you want to kick back, relax and get in some serious sun time. Book The Retreat pavilion at Pretty Beach House (about 90 minutes from Sydney), a luxurious two-storey villa surrounded by eucalyptus trees with a private pool and views across the bay – not to mention a butler.
From £660 a night. prettybeachhouse.com

Mostly c)

Treehotel, Harads, Sweden

After spending the night in an architect-designed treehouse in a towering forest (we recommend The Cabin, which has floor-to-ceiling windows), Treehotel offers plenty for the adventurous; from moose safaris and white water rafting to locally sourced food at the hotel's guesthouse restaurant.
From £380 a night. treehotel.se

Five sparkling alternatives to champagne

Despite what you've been served at every wedding you've ever been to, celebrations don't begin and end with champagne. Here are our picks, plus a bit of backstory for instant chat with the in-laws

Story by **Nick Carvell** Illustrations by **Joe McKendry**

Casa Belfi Colfondo Prosecco

Country of origin: Italy
Price: £15.50 a bottle

Forget about those sweet, sickly proseccos that have given Italy's premier sparkling wine a bad name in recent years: Casa Belfi's tangy and dry Colfondo packs your glass with bold, earthy favour. Grown in the northeastern Italian province of Treviso (the original home of prosecco and tiramisu), it's organic and unfiltered (giving it a naturally cloudy appearance) with big notes of apples and pears.
At Joseph Barnes Wines. josephbarneswines.com

Dominio De Tharsys Cava Brut Rosado

Country of origin: Spain
Price: £12 a bottle

Spanish sparkling wine dates back to the mid 19th century, when Catalan winemakers brought champagne methods to the region – and cava (named after the caves the bottles were aged in) has been on an upwards trajectory ever since. This rosé cava gets its colour from garnacha grapes and is a fresh option for your wedding, packed with notes of strawberry, raspberry, green herbs and apples.
At Les Caves De Pyrene. shop.lescaves.co.uk

Berry Bros & Rudd Crémant De Limoux by Antech

Country of origin: France
Price: £9.80 a bottle

The secret to crémant is in the fizz. Although made using the same method as champagne, crémant is produced with a lower bottle pressure, leading to bubbles with a smoother, more velvety texture – hence the name, which means "creamy" in French. This one from London wine merchant Berry Bros & Rudd is made in Limoux from a blend of chardonnay, chenin blanc and mauzac. It's zingy, clean, fruity and easy to drink.
bbr.com

Bird In Hand Sparkling Pinot Noir

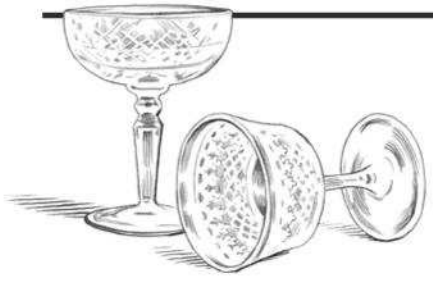
Country of origin: Australia
Price: £14.99 a bottle

Historically, pinot noir was a notoriously tricky grape to cultivate, but winemakers in New Zealand and Australia tamed it in the early 19th century. Today, some of the world's most complex pinot noirs are cultivated in the vineyards on the southeastern tip of Australia – where this wine was born. A sparkling rosé packed with floral notes, cherry and strawberry, this is a delicate, light and summery way to toast your new life together.
At Waitrose. waitrose.com

Camel Valley Cornwall Brut

Country of origin: UK
Price: £27.95 a bottle

A new generation of sparkling wines that benefit from an increasingly warm climate in southern England are winning international titles – and fewer home-turf fizzes are more commended than Camel Valley's. Made with grapes grown on rolling Cornish hills, the award-winning 2014 Cornwall Brut has crisp hits of grapefruit, lemon and apple, tempered with honey. If you need more convincing, British Airways serves it in First Class.
camelvalley.com



+ Why you should... Hire your own glassware

Whatever fizz you're serving, don't just think about the liquid – think about how you'll be serving it. A masterpiece, after all, needs a great frame, so forgo the traditional flute for glassware that brings *Gatsby*-level glamour: champagne saucers. "There is something so decadent about experiencing the bubbles that pop on your cheek as you take your first sip out of a saucer," says Amanda Chandler, founder of Vintage Gold China, a Gloucestershire-based hire company which has a beautiful selection of 250 mismatched vintage coupes. "It transports you to another era," says Chandler. And at only £1.25 a glass, it's time travel at a very reasonable price. GQ vintagegoldchina.com

Photographs **Anoushka Fisz Stewart; Andrej Uspenski**

Vashi Domínguez with 'Alchemist' Bradley as he puts the finishing touches to a bespoke diamond ring at VASHI's concept store in London

How to...

Ringing the changes

VASHI has made finding a diamond engagement ring an unforgettable experience, and its CEO says that it is changing the way couples are buying them

Story by **Teo van den Broeke** Photographs by **Leon Csernohlavek**

It used to be that when it came to finding an engagement ring, you were on your own. Generations of men were left desperately trying to guess their partner's taste in jewellery, and even their ring size.

That furtiveness is quickly becoming a thing of the past. Thanks to VASHI's pioneering bespoke engagement ring service, more and more couples are turning ring shopping into something that they can enjoy together, which means a whole lot less sneaking around. *GQ*'s Style And Grooming Director Teo van den Broeke went to meet CEO and founder Vashi Domínguez to find out more:

GQ: Who is VASHI for: bride or groom?

Vashi Domínguez: "Both. However, historically, we'd see a lot of guys buying rings on their own and it was very secretive. What we've seen since we opened our stores has been more couples coming in together. I'd say that over half of our customers today are couples."

So it turns buying a ring into a shared moment?

"That's right, I think people are super excited – it's a really collaborative and fun experience. We had a couple from Portugal recently who were in the store for nearly six hours. I know, it's a long time. She was so excited she kissed our message wall on the way out. I think someone was giving them champagne."

'What they're looking for is more than just product and service. They're looking for an experience'

Where do the diamonds come from?

"All of our diamonds are conflict-free, ethically sourced and guaranteed and come mainly from mines in Canada, South Africa and Australia."

What are the criteria?

"Diamonds come in over 16,000 different categories, but even when you have two stones with the same specifications they could look completely different. Therefore diamond appreciation becomes very personal. That's why we handpick our diamonds for superior brilliance."

What is it that sets VASHI apart from other jewellery brands?

"Beyond the quality of our product and craftsmanship, I think the experience we offer really sets us apart. Diamond purchasing can be quite intimidating, so we're making the experience inviting and enjoyable. It's a very emotional purchase. The fact that you can choose your own diamond, the setting, and see both components separately and help to make the ring yourself – that, to me, is very exciting."

Is VASHI showing the way for the future of wedding and engagement rings?

"I hope so. At the end of the day purchasing your engagement ring should be fun."

Additional words **Kevin Perry**

Everyone should be able to propose with an amazing ring

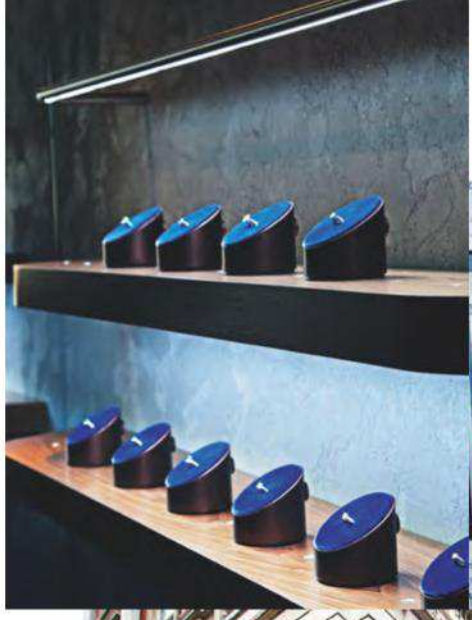
GQ's Style And Grooming Director Teo van den Broeke meets VASHI CEO and founder Vashi Domínguez

GQ's Style And Grooming Director Teo van den Broeke watches VASHI Alchemist Bradley at work

How to...

Put a (bespoke) ring on it

Your diamond engagement ring should be as unique as your relationship – and with the help of VASHI you can make sure it is



Rings on display; VASHI's message wall; VASHI concept store at 46 Piccadilly in London; VASHI's consultation room

Picking out the perfect ring is one of the most nerve-wracking parts of any proposal. You're charged with the near impossible task of finding a piece of jewellery that not only says something meaningful about your relationship but that also won't give your bank manager a heart attack.

It doesn't have to be this way. At VASHI's flagship diamond concept store at 46 Piccadilly, London, they'll help you customise every element of the ring to make sure it's just the way you and your partner want it. Then you can work with their expert craftsmen – or "Alchemists" – to create your ring and even help to finish it yourself. The result is something tailor-made, reasonably priced and guaranteed to sparkle on the big day. VASHI Alchemist Bradley sat down with *GQ*'s Style And Grooming Director Teo van den Broeke to talk him through how you can make your very own perfect diamond ring: **KP**

GQ: How do you go about making a ring from scratch for someone? Talk us through the process.

Bradley: "A ring starts life with a client coming in to see our VASHI team. They'll be shown an array of rings and also empty settings – which hold the diamond in place. They'll then choose the size, shape, quality and cut of their diamond and whether they want side-stones or a solitaire. At that point it will come to our Alchemists, someone like me. People can then get involved as much or as little as they want in the making of the ring."

What sort of guidance would you give someone when choosing a diamond?

"That depends on your budget. At VASHI, we help our customers to get the best stone they possibly can. Sometimes on a smaller budget it's better to go for a slightly larger table as a wider stone will let more light into it, which will refract a better colour and give a great sparkle."

They can hand-make the ring from start to finish if they want

How hands-on can people be in the process of creating the ring?

"They can handmake the ring from start to finish if they want. A lot of people like to use the laser machine to weld pieces of metal together. Other steps in the process include filing, polishing and re-sizing the ring to make sure it's a perfect fit and, of course, setting the stone. This is the most exciting part and involves placing the diamond in the setting and then molding the claws over to make sure the stone is secure."

That must be a nice moment.

"It is. Especially when customers get involved in the making – it feels very symbolic." **TvdB**

+ Rock stars Three eye-catching designs

The Beatles knew what they were talking about when they sang: 'I'll buy you a diamond ring, my friend, if it makes you feel alright.' There are few things in life more likely to put a smile on someone's face than a sizeable sparkling rock. Here are three of our favourite designs available from VASHI

Twist Solitaire Diamond Engagement Ring

A 1.96 carat brilliant round diamond in a platinum band with a twist setting.
£30,700. vashi.com

Pear Cut Diamond Engagement Ring

A 1.08 carat pear cut diamond in a platinum band with a knife edge setting.
£10,200. vashi.com

Three-Sided Pave Set Diamond Engagement Ring

A 0.68 carat round brilliant diamond in an 18k white gold band with pave set diamonds.
£5,350. vashi.com

RAYMOND WEIL

GENEVE

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CELEBRATING THE ICONIC

AC/DC

Limited Edition - ***freelancer***

BRITISH GQ Watch 2018
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Your essential guide to the world of watches

Midterm trend report

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An illustrated history of the Santos De Cartier

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On the cover

Photographed by
Matthew Beedle

Toronto-based illustrator **Julie Kraulis** drew the new Santos De Cartier for our cover image. Read our interview with Kraulis on p.147

GQ Watch
AND JEWELLERY
CARTIER
An illustrated history of the Santos De Cartier
Your horological dilemmas dissected
Anatomy of a watch collection: part five.

Editor's Letter

Periods of adjustment and the class of 2018

Seismic shifts stay under the surface, as change keeps ticking along

Geologists have a way of accounting for what they "see" that others don't: "deep time and ceaseless motion". It talks to the idea that although aeons of change are not immediately apparent to the layman, this doesn't mean upheaval isn't upon us; it's just a question of spotting the signs or heeding the question marks that preface a seismic event.

No one's saying 2018 will experience a tectonic shift, horologically speaking, but we are seeing some unusual activity – at least in the Swiss watch industry. For anyone who toured the floor of last January's SIHH in Geneva, this included the high number of first-time and new CEOs suddenly in the saddle. Following a year of change at the Richemont Group's businesses, IWC's (Christoph Grainger-Herr), Jaeger-LeCoultre's (Geoffrey Lefebvre) Vacheron Constantin (Louis Ferla) and Piaget's (Chabi Nouri, currently the group's only female CEO) were welcomed to the stage of Swiss watchmaking's first major event of the year.

Their impact can already be felt, with Vacheron Constantin and Jaeger-LeCoultre both unveiling new collections aimed at a younger audience who require performance and prestige rather than simply a patina of brand heritage. Similarly, IWC's anniversary collection felt inclusive and consumer-driven and not only tailored to the tastes of connoisseurs and collectors. (IWC's old boss, George Kern, is pursuing a similar strategy in his new role as Breitling CEO.)

Ulysse Nardin (now lead by former Apple executive Patrick Pruniaux) may have achieved an even greater feat by presenting a watch that comes with its own parental guidance warning (google "Classic Voyeur"), but if one was to take a single talking point from the fair it would be the welcome return of the "dress-sports" watch: horological hardware that can take life's more volcanic moments yet still brush up sufficiently to be taken out for dinner.

Nowhere was this more on show (or on trend) than at Cartier, the inventor of the first wristwatch back in 1904, destined for the pilot and adventurer Alberto Santos-Dumont, for whom one of the year's most highly praised new collections continues to be named. As befits the evolutionary nature of Cartier's creations, there are some significant differences within the "smoothed square" of the Santos' timeless design – you can read all about them in our tribute to the piece that started it all, "Watch The Skies" – but its solid focus on "contemporary chic" (aka all-round wearability) reflects a new era of dressed-up informality and, in the case of Cartier's enduring *"esprit d'élégance"*, the summation of all that deep time and ceaseless motion.

In the autumn, we will be back with news from Baselworld and beyond. In the meantime, enjoy the report. **GQ**

Bill Prince
Editor, GQWatch and Jewellery

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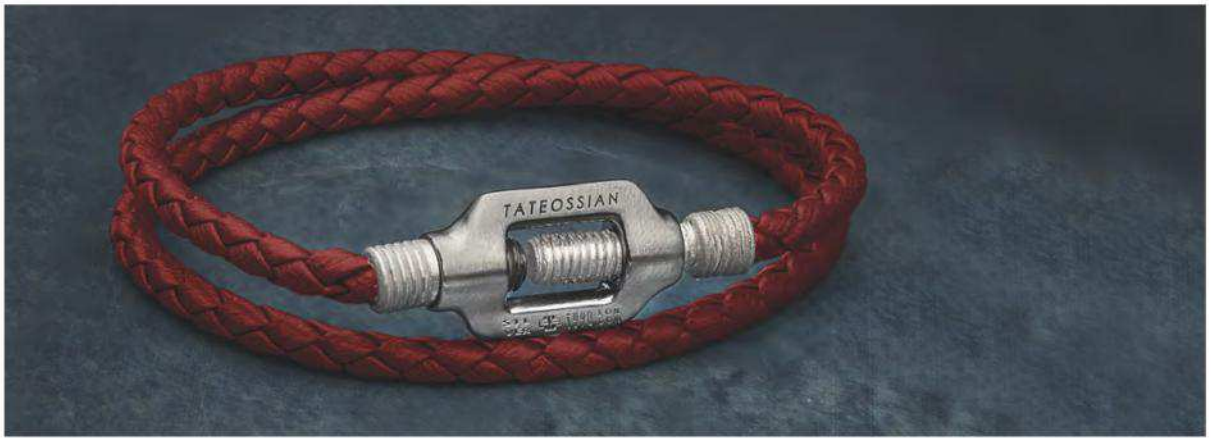

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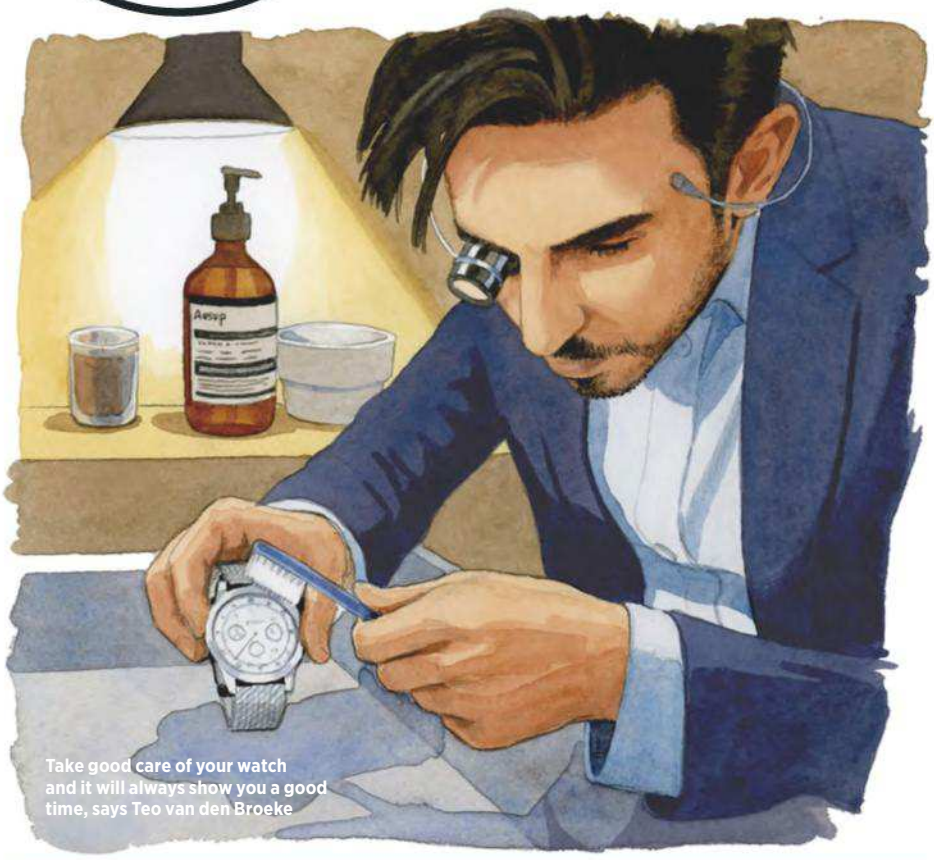
Watch Shrink

GQ's doctor of horology resolves your dilemmas in perfect time

By **Teo van den Broeke**



Take good care of your watch and it will always show you a good time, says Teo van den Broeke

I love my new Patek Philippe Calatrava. It's got a yellow-gold case with a white dial and a black croc strap. It's beautiful. The thing is, I know that it is technically classed as a dress watch, but I really like wearing it all the time. Is it totally inappropriate to wear a dress watch with a T-shirt and jeans? If so, when is it OK to wear my Calatrava, other than with a tuxedo? I want to get my money's worth, after all (and it's the only watch I own).
Simon, Bristol

Dear Simon,
The reality is that outside of haughty horological circles, wearing a dress watch with a more casual outfit is totally fine. Your Calatrava will look excellent worn with a suit and even if you're wearing separates – a navy blazer with chinos, for instance – the Calatrava, by virtue of its simplicity, will step back and let your outfit do the talking. If you're still worried about looking like a wally, perhaps invest in a more casual strap that you can alternate with the dressier one. A full-grain leather strap in tan with white top-stitching, for instance, (the thread-work will give it a more casual feel) or a tightly woven leather or perlon strap (American retailer Crown & Buckle is a good place to find these). If in doubt, however, just remember that you own a Patek Philippe and anyone who takes a stab at you for wearing it with a onesie (you must never wear a onesie) is just jealous that they don't own a Patek Philippe too.

I know that the trend is for smaller watches these days, but I really love wearing a big chunk of a watch on my wrist. I'm tall (6'4") and I go to the gym every day (strength, not cardio) so bigger kind of works on me. Still, I don't want to look like I don't know what I'm doing. Is there a chunky watch out there that won't make me look like The Rock at a CrossFit class?
Tim, Twickenham

Dear Tim,
Small watches aren't for everyone and, it's true, they can look silly on larger wrists. Though some brands, such as Tudor and Rolex, are pushing men's watches at the 36mm to 39mm mark, the average man's watch size is somewhere between 40 and 42mm. If you plan on moving above this, into the plus-44mm territory, the key is to opt for something superbly made and stylistically simple – you wouldn't want to draw attention to a watch that looks like it's come out of a cracker, after all. Good brands to consider include Breitling and Panerai. At the former, the high-function nature of the 134-year-old marque's timepieces mean that they're good for outdoorsy or active types (like you, by the sound of it, Tim). Breitling's Superocean Héritage II 46 has an understated appeal: the Milanese strap affords the new watch a touch of elegance, while the softly turned edges of the 46mm case look smart (and not a bit too bulky) on larger wrists. Alternatively, the new Avenger Hurricane Military is a 50mm beast of a watch with martial appeal (just be sure not to wear this one with a suit – peak Rock territory). Panerai, on the other hand, has just released a new take on its slim Luminor Due range. The 3 Days Automatic Acciaio has all the heft of its weightier cousin, but sits lower on the wrist so it can fit under the cuff of a shirt, making it smart yet sizeable. Also like you, Tim.

How do I clean that greasy, grubby bit between the case and the bracelet of my watch? Do I need to get it serviced?
Anonymous

Dear Anonymous,
The fatty acids in sweat, in addition to general atmospheric exposure, can wreak havoc on your watch and leave unsightly dirt in those hard-to-reach crannies around the lugs, bracelet and bezel. The solution is two-fold. First, be sure to give your watch a good wipe down with a soft cloth every night when you take it off. Second, once a month or so, place your watch in a small bath of warm, soapy water (a smidge of Aesop hand soap should do the trick) and give it a very gentle going-over with a soft, worn-down toothbrush. The soap will eat through the grease and leave your timepiece shining. Just be sure to dry it off properly (ideally with a hairdryer) afterwards. GQ

Illustration **Joe McKendry**

Watch the skies

Story by **Bill Prince**

For more than a century, aviators and watchmakers have made natural collaborators. Here, we recall the very earliest partnership – between Louis Cartier and pioneering pilot Alberto Santos-Dumont – and the great leaps forward they made together

Back In Time

Figuring out exactly who was first to powered flight is surprisingly tricky. History records that the Wright brothers launched themselves into the record books at Kitty Hawk in 1903, but they didn't achieve liftoff unaided: they required a rail track (later a catapult) to get them airborne. However, in 1906 a Brazilian, Alberto Santos-Dumont, took off from the grounds of Paris' Château De Bagatelle in an aircraft fitted with a wheeled undercarriage, flying a distance of 60 metres at an average height of five metres before making a controlled – rather than "crash" – landing.

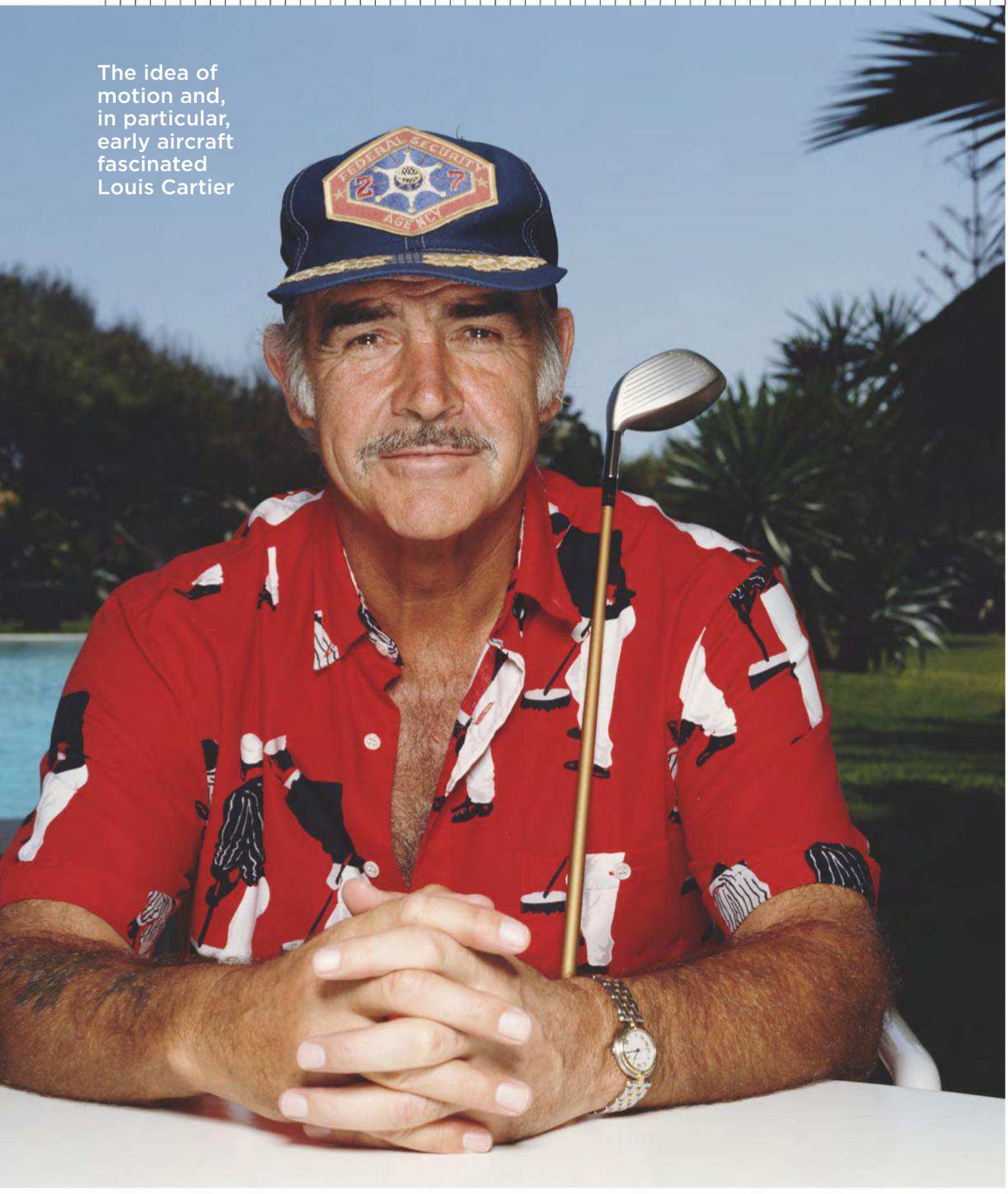
Whether you reference the first achievement or the second as the beginning of heavier-than-air flight may well depend on your country of birth. But what is not in dispute is Santos-Dumont's impact on the history of aviation. (He would go on to design and sell the world's first production aircraft, the diminutive Demoiselle No19.) And then there's his contribution to the field of horology. Here, the Brazilian pioneer's name lives on for another, more readily recalled reason: the wristwatch that bears his name, designed by his friend Louis Cartier in 1904 and considered to be the first purpose-designed wristwatch.

It's unclear whether the young aviator had asked Cartier to wrist-mount a timepiece or whether Louis took on the task unbidden. Whichever: the result speaks for itself. More than a century after it was created, the Santos remains not only the first "pilot's watch" (and the only Cartier piece to carry the original wearer's name) but, thanks to a relaunch in the late-Seventies, a benchmark for a certain relaxed elegance that endures to this day.

At the beginning of the last century, Paris was at the centre of an overwhelming push towards progress not seen since the Enlightenment and Cartier, founded in 1847 by Louis' grandfather, Louis-François, was in pole position to supply its customers with many of the new luxury tools – from travel goods to timepieces – required >>

Clockwise: Photographer and Santos paragon Richard Avedon in New Mexico, 1979; Sean Connery wearing a Santos Ronde in the mid-Nineties; aviation pioneer Alberto Santos-Dumont beside his aircraft, the Demoiselle, 1908

Photographs **BnF/Agence Roi; Getty Images/Terry O'Neill; Laura Wilson**



The idea of motion and, in particular, early aircraft fascinated Louis Cartier

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>> to enjoy it. But it was the idea of motion, and in particular early automobiles and aircraft, that fascinated Louis most. This brought him into contact with the "elite snobosphere" that made up the membership of the Aéro Club De France – including Alberto Santos-Dumont.

The son of Brazilian coffee-growers who'd wisely swapped the sweltering plantations north of São Paulo for the pulsating heart of Paris, Santos-Dumont had steered his own dirigible above the streets of the French capital before setting his sights on powered, heavier-than-air flight. Previously, wrist-mounting pocket watches had sufficed as timers for fledgling aviators, but Santos-Dumont had tired of struggling to locate and read his pocket watch while piloting: the perfect candidate, then, for the world's first purpose-designed wristwatch.

Cartier delivered – and how. Drawing on his father Alfred's belief that an original design could serve as the guiding force behind a multi-generational business – and recognising how the adoption of modern principles of clarity, simplicity and practicality could help "codify" the era's fascination with progress – Louis created a watch that enshrined all that would come to signify "less is more" (aka modernism), while retaining sufficient wrist appeal to ensure its position as the ultimate "dress-sports" watch more than a century later.

And what became of Santos-Dumont's own timepiece? Unfortunately, the original is missing, presumed mislaid or broken by its namesake. Undeterred, Louis produced a second watch in 1908 (also lost) before putting it into full production in 1911. In 2014, the earliest surviving example (*above*), dated to 1912, came up for auction and now resides at Cartier's Paris archive.

Santos-Dumont was the ideal candidate for the world's first pilot's watch

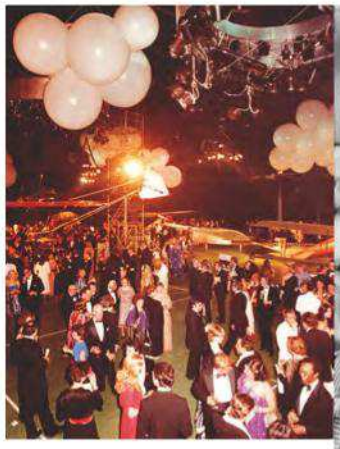
The Santos' case was seemingly inspired by a square pocket watch Cartier had produced, but its highly legible dial design talks directly to the move away from art nouveau to the art deco style that would define the Twenties and Thirties. Unsurprisingly, its "rounded square" case was conceived to be robust and it's said the screws that secure the glass were intended to recall the legs of Gustave Eiffel's tower. Similarly, the blackened Roman numerals suggest the radial layout of Paris' *centre-ville*, the global marker for urban improvement devised by Baron Haussmann in the 1850s.

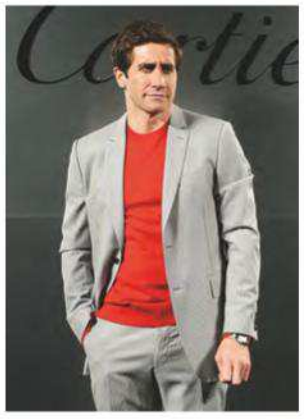
The Santos watch may well have been a sporting accessory before it became a "luxury object", but by the middle years of the last century Cartier timepieces had taken on a well-breached life of their own. Worn by playboys and potentates, rock stars and royalty, they became part of the social semaphore that united an increasingly disparate "jet set" and helped construct part of the edifice of "attainment" that marked out this global elite along with much of its well-informed entourage.

No wonder, then, that in the late Seventies, when Cartier was looking to capitalise on the newly developed "luxury sports" watch sector (high-end pieces manufactured in stainless steel, exemplified by Audemars Piguet's Royal Oak and, later, the Patek Philippe Nautilus) it chose the Santos as the means to do so. In 1978 the watch was redesigned and renamed Santos De Cartier by then-head of marketing Alain Dominique Perrin, who commissioned its first steel and gold models, adding an integrated bracelet in place of a traditional leather strap. Perrin executed another neat twist: the use of a part-gold case and bracelet. Known as "bimetal", the concept went on to influence watch designs into the Eighties and beyond.

The following year, Cartier threw a star-studded party for the new collection. In honour of the model's 75th birthday, Manhattan's vast Armory building hosted "Santos Night", a black-tie extravaganza attended by 500 guests (including Truman Capote, Rudolf Nureyev and the designer Bill Blass), who were treated to a display of vintage aircraft (including the dainty Demoiselle), a five-tier birthday cake and a discotheque overseen – literally – by Paris' leading DJ, Jean Castel, who performed from the gondola of a hot air balloon suspended high above the revelry.

L'esprit de Seventies would prevail throughout the following decade, when the Santos rivalled the iconic Tank for ubiquity on the forearms of the truly fortunate, and by the time it came to celebrate its centenary, the Santos was on the move again, stylistically speaking. An extra-large collection, the 100, was launched, which included both an *au courant* all-black finish and a unique skeletonised version, its bridges formed by those emblematic Roman numerals. In its latest iteration (*see overleaf*), thanks to its creator's progressive intuition along with his friend's derring-do, the Santos remains the very symbol of casual chic.





Clockwise from top left: The night in New York where Cartier raised a toast (and the DJ) to the Santos' 75th anniversary, 1979; Yves Saint Laurent wearing a Santos at a show in Paris, 1972; Jake Gyllenhaal was announced as the face of Santos De Cartier in San Francisco, 5 April

Photographs Bruno Barbey/Magnum Photos; Cartier; Getty Images

Santos De Cartier,
£9,200. cartier.com

THE WATCH PROFILE

Today, the Santos continues to enshrine Louis Cartier's concept of the *"idée mère"* – an original "mother idea" from which further ideas flow. But the 2018 iteration of his timeless design is no mere tributary; instead it encapsulates several advantages of modern watchmaking. One of these is a robust sapphire crystal, affording an extended bezel. This, in turn, has allowed the bracelet to be further integrated into the case of the watch (which now features "horned" crown guards), along with the inclusion of a patented interchangeable strap mechanism. Another point of difference is the use of the in-house movement, Calibre 1847, first introduced in the Clé De Cartier collection of 2015. Subtle yet significant touches all, but then when a watch has survived this long, attempting anything more might be considered, well, a bit *de trop*. GQ

No mere tributary, the 2018 Santos encapsulates modern watchmaking

Watches Of Switzerland's 'golden triangle' of boutiques on, clockwise from left, Oxford Street, Knightsbridge and Regent Street

Watches Of Switzerland

The time of your life

Find the right watch and you are guaranteed a long-lasting love affair. But don't leave things to chance – Watches of Switzerland will help you hunt down your dream timepiece

Most of our significant relationships are thrust upon us. Biology selects our family for us. Geography dictates our football team. Providence picks us a partner. But there's one essential life-long relationship in which we can be the master of our fate: every man gets to choose his own watch.

Not that that means it's easy, of course. The world of *haute horlogerie* can be impenetrable to the uninitiated with its luminescence and lugs, guilloche and bezels. Mercifully, this is where Watches Of Switzerland comes in with its bespoke VIP services, impeccable customer relations and more than 90 years of experience helping men cut through the jargon to find their perfect watch.

Men want an expression of themselves, an heirloom of the future

Often first to the market with launches and with unrivalled access to exclusive pieces, Watches Of Switzerland has 16 showrooms including boutiques at all the Heathrow terminals and a stunning new space in Manchester's St Ann's Square. Its "Golden Triangle" of central London stores is formed of the buzzing Oxford Street showroom, the three-storey showroom in Knightsbridge with its epic Patek Philippe boutique and the flagship showroom at 155 Regent Street, Europe's largest showroom of top-end timepieces. Every showroom has an incredible roster of ultra-luxury watchmakers: Rolex, Patek Philippe, Cartier, Jaeger-LeCoultre, IWC and Officine Panerai, and all of them are staffed by a band of horological obsessives on hand to help you navigate the potentially dizzying array of choice. Dress watch or dive watch? Stripped back or piled high with functions? Neo-vintage or ultra-modern?

More than anything else, though, the people at Watches Of Switzerland understand that clients don't want something that will simply tell the time – they want something that is an expression of themselves, an heirloom of the future. Whatever you're looking for, they know what will make you tick.

The Collection

For the players

Looking for a watch you can wear round the clock? These high-function sports-dress watches will see you through from boardroom to bedroom

Photographs by **Matthew Beedle** Edited by **Teo van den Broeke**

From left: LUC XPS Twist QF Fairmined by **Chopard**, £16,100. chopard.com. Fiftysix Self-Winding by **Vacheron Constantin**, £10,500. vacheronconstantin.com. Dandy by **Chaumet**, £14,000. chaumet.com

Opposite: Polaris Memovox by **Jaeger-LeCoultre**, £10,800. jaeger-lecoultre.com. Jacket by **Tod's**, £1,650. tods.com. Trousers by **Hugo**, £179. hugoboss.com. Shoes by **Jimmy Choo**, £525. jimmychoo.com

From left: Presage Automatic Cocktail Time by **Seiko**, £329. seiko.co.uk. Seamaster Railmaster Co-Axial Master Chronometer by **Omega**, £3,680. omegawatches.com. Carré H by **Hermès**, £5,725. hermes.com

Defy Classic by **Zenith**, £5,000. zenith-watches.com. Jumper by **Corneliani**, £280. corneliani.com. Bag by **Coach**, £650. coach.com

Da Vinci Automatic by **IWC**, £4,700. iwc.com.
Jacket by **Kent & Curwen**, £1,275. kentandcurwen.com.
Polo shirt by **Canali**, £180. canali.com.
Bracelet by **Shamballa Jewels**, £8,570. At Frost Of London. frostoflondon.com

From left: Clifton Baumatic by **Baume Et Mercier**, £2,500. baume-et-mercier.co.uk. Superocean Héritage II 42 by **Breitling**, £3,590. breitling.com. Cellini Time by **Rolex**, £11,200. rolex.com

From left: Tambour Essential by **Louis Vuitton**, £3,150. louisvuitton.com. Black Bay 36 by **Tudor**, £2,030. tudorwatch.com. Octo Finissimo Automatic by **Bulgari**, £11,000. bulgari.com

Royal Oak 'Jumbo' Extra-Thin by **Audemars Piguet**, £29,400. audemarspiguet.com. Jacket by **Corneliani**, £1,600. corneliani.com. Gloves by **Boss**, £69. hugoboss.com

Styling **Angelo Mitakos**
Model **Tom King at Body London GQ**

The Royal Exchange

A week of wonder

As valuable and enriching as the City itself, The Royal Exchange's fifth annual Watch & Jewellery Week promises to be its most glittering yet

For Him

Watch by **Bremont**, £3,995. bremont.com

For Her

Sterling silver earhoops by **Georg Jensen**, £195. georgjensen.com

London has always been a showcase of invention – with history to spare, it shapes the future, consistently attracting the world's finest craftsmen. And amid an ever-growing rabble of consumerism, one place in particular has remained the perfect location to take some time out and appreciate a sparkling selection of fine handiwork. The Royal Exchange is the antithesis of one-click shopping: a dazzling destination housing an unrivalled collection of watches and jewellery.

This year sees The Royal Exchange's fifth annual Watch & Jewellery Week, showcasing the finest work the City has to offer. A five-day celebration of luxury, brands such as Omega, Bremont, Georg Jensen, Tateossian, Tiffany & Co and Watches Of Switzerland will be presenting this year's newly launched collections and introducing you to exclusive products in the Central Courtyard.

Since opening in 1571, the City has converged and shopped at The Royal Exchange, now home to an exceptional selection of brands including Aspinal Of London, Boodles, Montblanc, Hermès, Links Of London and Halcyon Days. Watch & Jewellery Week, now a firm fixture in the connoisseur's calendar, offers an opportunity to learn more about the extraordinary work and processes involved in creating some of the world's most exquisite watches and jewellery. The City's foremost names will be on hand to help guide you through myriad delights and find your perfect purchase, and there are in-store promotions as well as illuminating, informative talks, panels and discussions by industry masters.

The courtyard itself, and indeed the entirety of The Royal Exchange, is one of the City's own jewels. Nearly half a millennium old, the Grade I-listed building is one of London's most iconic and historic. Opened by Elizabeth I, it was dreamed up by merchant Sir Thomas Gresham, the father of English banking, who envisioned the capital's first purpose-built centre for trading stocks after working as a royal agent at the Bourse in Antwerp. Twice destroyed by fire, it nevertheless endured, and brokers and merchants traded at The Royal Exchange for more than 400 years. In 2001, architects Aukett Fitzroy Robinson remodelled the building and transformed the courtyard, once again placing The Royal Exchange in the centre of commerce, commemorating the past while looking to the future.

Event-wise, previous years at Watch & Jewellery Week have

The Royal Exchange has survived more than 400 years of history, including two fires

The City's foremost names will guide you to your perfect purchase

featured a seminar on building a watch collection, a watchmaking masterclass by Watchfinder & Co, a talk on the evolution of watches from the Tudor and Edwardian period by London Silver Vaults antiques specialist Anthony Green, and, in 2017, a Bremont watchmaker workshop and jewellery engraving demonstrations from Links Of London, Halcyon Days and Georg Jensen. Watch & Jewellery Week also plays host to *GQ*'s own reader event night, and 2018 continues this in style. On Wednesday 23 May, we will be introducing our favourite pieces from The Royal Exchange; *GQ* Deputy Editor Bill Prince will be presenting an exclusive event at Watches Of Switzerland; and *GQ*'s Style & Grooming Director Teo Van den Broeke will be hosting a talk covering all the latest must-have accessories.

Throughout the year, The Royal Exchange offers horological heaven and jewellery joy in the heart of the City, an unparalleled and contemporary shopping experience. Watch & Jewellery Week further amplifies that experience, introducing you to only the finest diamonds and timepieces; a celebration of craftsmanship in the perfect environment. Luxuriate in it.

WATCH AND JEWELLERY WEEK 21-25 MAY
HEAD TO THE ROYAL EXCHANGE AND SHOP BRANDS INCLUDING: OMEGA, BREMONT, GEORG JENSEN, TATEOSSIAN, TIFFANY & CO. AND WATCHES OF SWITZERLAND. *REGISTER FOR TICKETS AT RSVPTHEROYALEXCHANGE@CONDENAST.CO.UK*

Harnessing the power of one

Amassing a multi-brand collection of watches is only one approach. Deep-diving into a single dial name could help satisfy the horo hunter-gatherer...

Anatomy Of A Watch Collection: Part 5

Story by **James Gurney** Illustration by **Gavin Reece**

Surprising as it may seem, not everyone collects Patek Philippe or Rolex. For a growing cohort, there's simply more room, more interest and more rewards to be had collecting in less crowded fields. Neither Patek nor Rolex are fully played out, of course, but there are serious barriers to entry in terms of price and availability.

Choosing to specialise in brands such as Heuer or Breitling offers a viable alternative that's attracting a growing number of collectors at every level of ambition, while others are pursuing even more esoteric specialisms that throw an interesting light on what motivates collectors and the rewards they crave – the psychology of collecting, if you like.

For most collectors, it's a combination of a particular model and the brand story that sets the ball rolling. But after that, the motivation becomes more about the pure experience of accumulating – a matrix of people, opportunities, information sources, availability and value.

Heuer is the brand catching up fastest with the big two and it's instructive to see how the market is evolving and what Heuer collectors seem to be looking for. Jonathan Scatchard, one of the founders of vintageheuer.com, has been interested in the brand since the Nineties. As he puts it, the simplest explanation is that, "Heuer is the only brand that really specialised in chronographs during the Sixties, which is the key decade that today's collectors look to. There are hardly any three-handers from the time and that compares well against the likes of Breitling or Omega – or Rolex, for that matter." In other words, Heuer has a good watch story.

What's more, good information is available and easy to access: onthedash.com and calibre11.com are both invaluable resources for the Heuer collector. And while prices are moving up fairly quickly (a Heuer Carrera 2447N now goes for £12,000), Scatchard doesn't think Heuer is going to match Rolex values any time soon. "The rising values have encouraged people to dig forgotten watches out and we've hardly scratched the surface, so there's a good supply available," he says.

The word is getting out, too, that TAG Heuer is supporting the collector community by making the archives more available. For the time being, Breitling isn't quite ready to offer the same level of in-depth support, but for Instagram's @watchfred, aka Fred Mandelbaum, that's beside the point. "Breitling spoke to me as a brand," he says. "I had become interested in chronographs, which made Breitling, the leading innovator in that segment, the centre of my collection. This was where they excelled, from the first separate pusher wrist onwards."

'The rising values of the "big two" encourages people to dig out forgotten watches'

Of course, Mandelbaum can quote chapter and verse on the innovations that followed – from the Chronomat slide-rule chronograph to the watch that Scott Carpenter wore to space aboard Aurora 7 in 1962. And as a collector keen on chronographs, there's plenty more to be interested in – a point he made during a recent roadshow hosted by new Breitling CEO Georges Kern, at which Mandelbaum showed off some of the picks from his collection. Again, the ready availability of quality information on the internet is critical for followers of the brand, and Mandelbaum is a moderator of the TZ forum, where he dispenses advice and help to all comers.

Diving deep is one of the key attractions for another group of collectors, for whom focusing on active independents such as FP Journe, Laurent Ferrier or Roger W Smith makes it possible to truly get to know the watchmakers, their work and their philosophy.

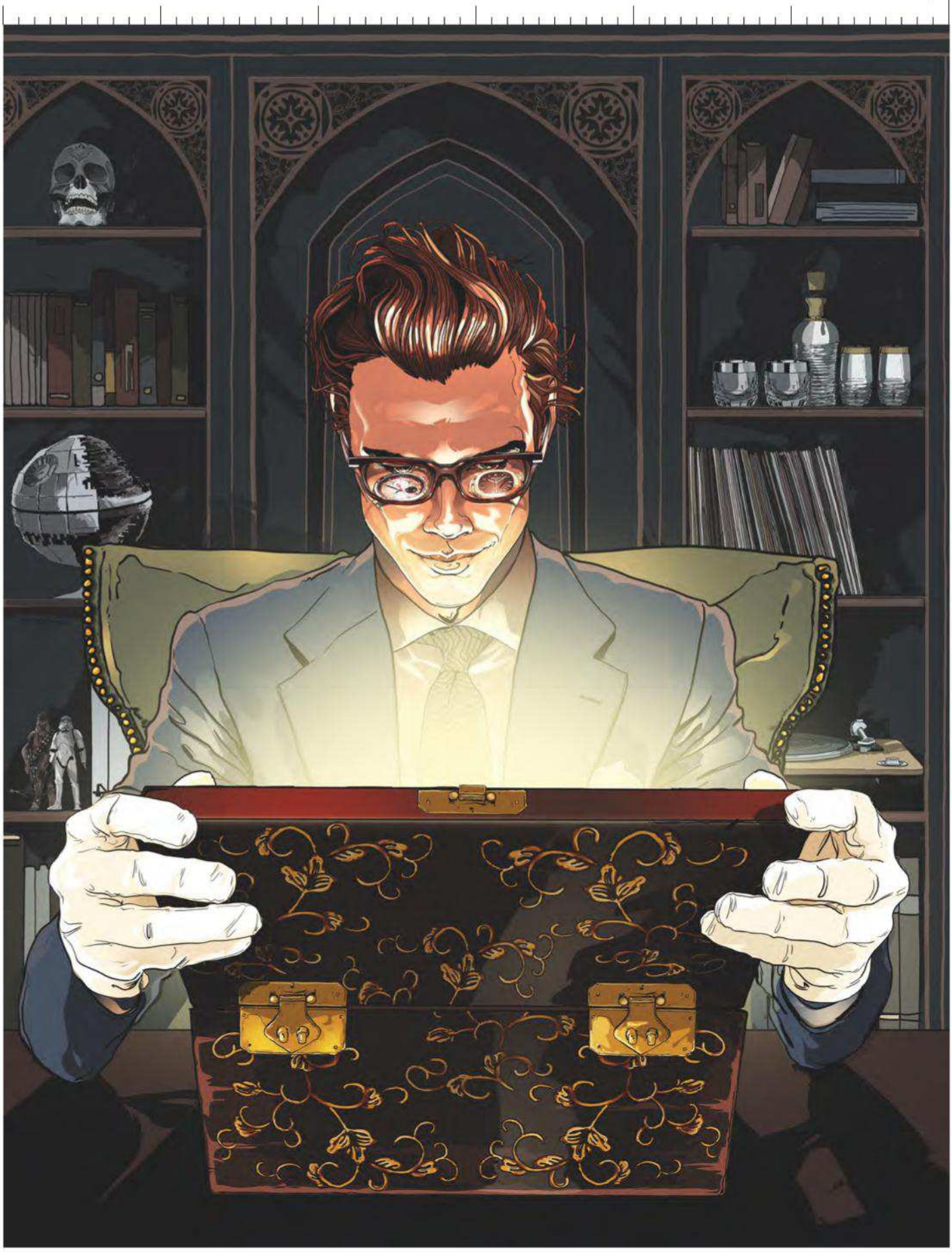
According to Silas Walton, founder of acollectedman.com, a platform dedicated to the buying and selling of high-end watches, these collectors "are not averse to more obvious brands, but they find that niche brands involve closer, better relationships with both other collectors and the watchmakers themselves. The knowledge out there is fresher and more reachable...

"You can get to know the people, their inspirations, to really understand the crafts and skills they possess. That makes them identify more strongly with the brands; they can buy watches knowing that their purchases are supporting something happening now."

Walton also believes that these smaller groups of collectors attract like-minded characters and therefore make for a clubbier atmosphere. Add to that the chance to engage with the watchmaker in terms of customisation and the attraction is obvious.

The common threads that run through these collector groups are a genuine appreciation for a brand, relative availability and the importance of the collector community, which provides both a support infrastructure and a sense of camaraderie. And the support given to collector communities by the brands is also growing, as they perceive the value added (just look at the way the "Paneristi" enhanced Panerai's stock since the brand was re-established in the Nineties).

Of course, most of the above applies equally to Patek Philippe and Rolex, but here the ground has been thoroughly picked over, the books written, the values set in stone and the grail pieces are mostly safe in the hands of knowledgeable collectors. No wonder, then, watch collecting is becoming a more diverse place than ever before. GQ



The barrier to entry for Rolex and Patek Philippe is steering watch collectors towards brands that offer greater engagement

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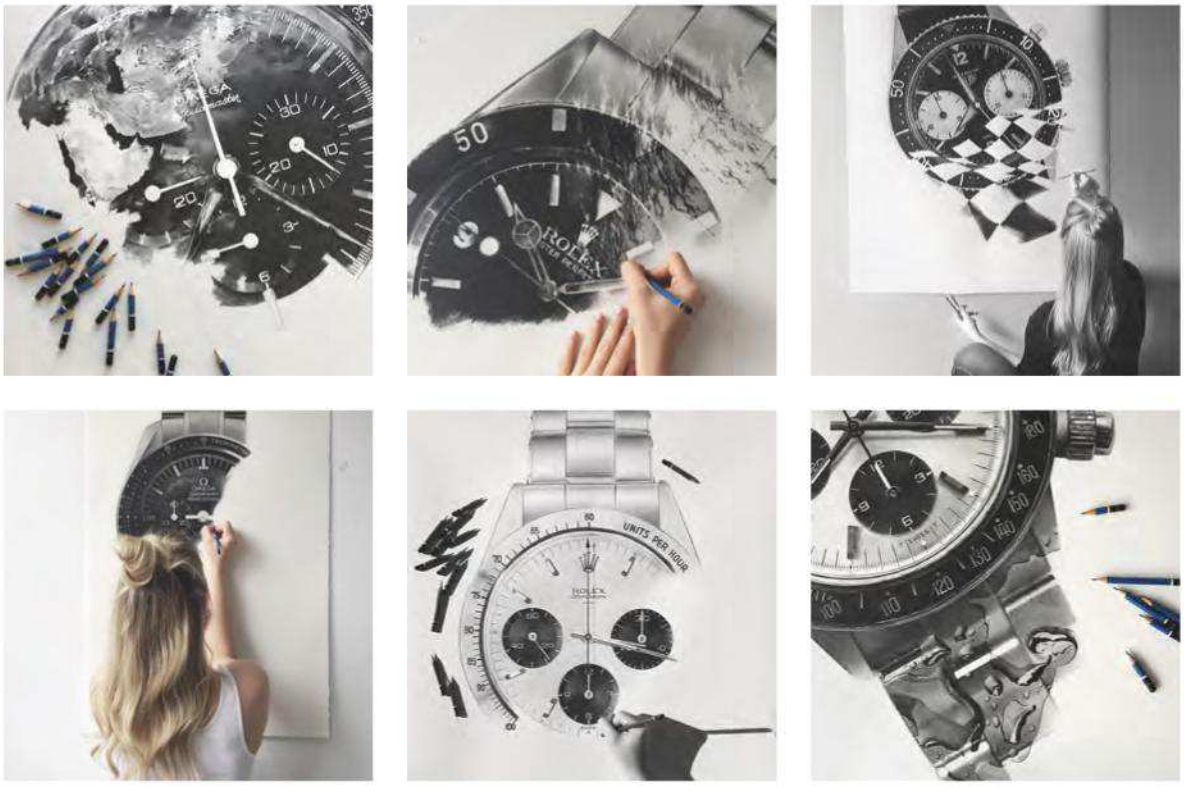


Watch out for: Julie Kraulis

Story by **Eleanor Halls** Illustrations by **Julie Kraulis**

The artist behind the image that opens this edition of GQ Watch & Jewellery draws us a picture of her intricate process

Julie Kraulis has never worn a watch and yet she spends her days drawing them. The unique timepiece artist, based in Toronto, has spent the last two years creating giant sketches of watches using Staedtler Mars Lumograph pencils on Arches paper, with each piece taking up to 250 hours of work and going through as many as 50 pencils. The finished result resembles a vintage black and white photograph. For the cover of this year's midterm report, Kraulis sketched the new Santos De Cartier. We spoke to the illustrator to find out more about her work.

How did you become interested in watches?

It was serendipitous. I found an article online about the world's most iconic watches. I've always been into design. The amount of engineering in one little package – an everyday object we wear on our wrists – astounds me. I've also never experienced an industry with such attention to detail. People in the industry spot every mistake.

How do you prepare for your sketch?

I spend ten to 30 hours reading as much as I can from watch blogs and libraries so that I can then incorporate narrative elements and historical significance into the sketch. I want to go beyond reproducing a photograph. I'll then wait for the information to steep for a few weeks before I begin working from a photograph. I always include the watch's scratches and marks.

Why do you use a pencil?

Using the most basic tool and feeling this kinship to people throughout history who have used a pencil is magical. You could spend a lifetime trying to figure out how to master the pencil. It ties you to artists, mathematicians and scientists through time. I am particularly inspired by Da Vinci's and Salvador Dalí's drawings.

What do you like about the Santos De Cartier?

I love the simplicity of its design. It is so elegant. In the same way, I appreciate a sports chronograph for the functionality.

What has been your most exciting project to date?

I love sketching vintage Cartiers, but the Omega watches have been my most commissioned. The Omega history is so rich and has opened up the entire world of space and Nasa. It was incredible to be in the same room as Buzz Aldrin recently when I created a Moonwatch piece for Omega's Lost In Space event in London. **GQ**

'I've never experienced an industry with such attention to detail'

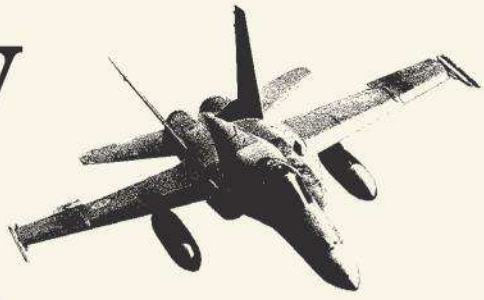
TAG Heuer x Bamford Watch Department

TAG Heuer Monaco Bamford, £6,000.
bamfordwatchdepartment.com

Out Of The Box

Big tech companies build hardware but rely on software developers to widen the appeal for their products. That must surely be the thinking behind the recent decision by LVMH head of watches Jean-Claude Biver to let loose young turk George Bamford's timepiece hot-tuners at Bamford Watch Department on a few of his iconic timepieces. The latest is this limited-edition Monaco, featuring a specially moulded 39mm carbon case and Bamford's signature aqua-blue highlights on hands, indexes, date wheel and logo. Fitted with the chronometer-rated Calibre 11 automatic chronograph movement (codeveloped by TAG Heuer and partners in the Sixties), think of it as 158 years of watchmaking know-how – now with added "startup" savoir-faire. GQ

If the military depend on them, you can.



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GENTLEMEN'S QUARTERLY

Olivier Awards

We asked Bryan Cranston, Jeremy Irons (*pictured*) and a dozen other stage actors who defined the last year in British theatre about their most memorable experiences on stage for this exclusive film.

Behind the scenes at the **GQ Car Awards 2018**; (*below*) Stormzy + Raymond Blanc = pistachio soufflé.

London to Newquay on the new HondaJet; (*below*) we ask what **Maya Jama** would do if she was a man.

Michael Clark

GQ and Gucci return with *The Performers*, featuring the maverick Scottish dancer and choreographer.

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THE GQ DROP

Edited by Bill Prince

Matthew d'Ancona faces facts: Remainers need to sell a stronger story p.153 **Dorian Lynskey** streams a new revolution in music journalism p.155 **Martin Samuel** blows the whistle on ritual bullying in sport p.156 **Tony Parsons** turns left on every flight – here's how you can too p.158 **Stuart McGurk** visits Donald Glover's funny-not-funny dramedy capital p.160

Photograph **Jonathan Becker/Getty Images**

Julian Schnabel in his studio in Montauk, New York with two of the 13 works from his Big Girl Paintings series (2001-2002). This year, Schnabel returns with a new collection of outsized art and a broad-strokes biopic of Vincent Van Gogh. Here, he tells Sophie McBain why history is a lie that frames the truth – p152

Art

A year in the life of Julian Schnabel

Twelve new calendrical works and an impressionistic Van Gogh biopic confirm the versatile precocity of the maximalist master of the Eighties

Story by **Sophie McBain**

'March' and 'October' (2017) by Julian Schnabel

The famous artist and award-winning filmmaker Julian Schnabel really does not like to give interviews. It's not that he's shy or retiring – quite the opposite, in fact – but he's been laying bare his feelings through his vast, expressive paintings for four decades and he doesn't see why he needs to keep on explaining himself.

"Everything I have to say is in that painting," he declared when we met, gesturing to one of several large works displayed in his studio in Palazzo Chupi, the burnt-pink Italianate mansion block Schnabel built in New York's West Village. A hirsute, barrel-chested bear of a man, he was wearing blue-tinted glasses, baggy trousers and a denim shirt and he regarded me with the polite weariness one might reserve for a trip to the dentist. "People always want you to say more, but really the horse's mouth is the art. The horse is the artist," he said.

The 66-year-old painter first thrust himself onto the New York art scene in the Seventies, when his big, emotional paintings broke with the prevailing minimalist mood and launched neo-expressionism. The movement captured and distilled the brashness of the Eighties and got rich quick. By mid-decade Schnabel's plate paintings – canvases encrusted with smashed crockery he bought from the Salvation Army – were fetching six-figure sums and Schnabel was a fixture on the New York social circuit. He wore pyjamas in public, feuded with critics and pronounced on his own greatness. "I'm as close to Picasso as you're going to get," he once told *New York*.

By the Nineties the art market had cooled and his work fell out of fashion. Schnabel was upheld as the poster boy for Eighties excess. "There seemed to be a critical boycott of my work at some point," Schnabel told me, though he said the period wasn't as bad as people make out. He kept on painting. "I don't know what people tell you about the Nineties. I did some of my best work!" he said, leafing through *Julian Schnabel*, a coffee-table book he keeps to hand. He also started making films. While his paintings divide critics, his films are almost universally acclaimed. In 2008, he received four Oscar nominations and won a Golden Globe for *The Diving Bell And The Butterfly*, based on the autobiography of a French journalist paralysed in all but one eyelid after a stroke.

Schnabel considers himself a painter above a filmmaker and an artist above everything else. "I've always been an artist," he said. He was an artist as a child, when he sketched under his parents' kitchen table in Brooklyn. His father was a meat wholesaler who emigrated from Czechoslovakia at 15 and his mother headed a local Jewish volunteer organisation and tried her best to understand her son's exotic aspirations. Schnabel was an artist in high school in Texas, where he grew his hair long and learned to surf and felt like his family were the only Jews in town. He studied art at the University Of Houston and then won a place on the Whitney Independent Study Program, having submitted slides of his work between slices of bread. He was an artist when he was a chef, waiting for his break. In 1979, when the gallerist Mary Boone gave him his first solo show, he told her he'd make the cover of *Art Forum* magazine within five years. It took him two. Journalists tend to make much of Schnabel's sizeable ego, but no one could make the kind of art he does, or enjoy the kind of career he has, without deep reserves of self-belief and resourcefulness.

That said, he almost fell into filmmaking. His first film was the 1996 biopic of his friend Jean-Michel Basquiat, the graffiti artist and painter who died of a heroin overdose in 1988 at the age of 27. "Someone was interviewing me about Jean-Michel and they were a tourist and I just thought, 'I should get this right. I owe it to him,'" Schnabel said. "I never thought I was going to be a movie-maker, but I did that to speak to him, *for* him."

Basquiat opens with the line "Everybody wants to get on the Van Gogh boat" from the poet and artist Rene Ricard. Now, Vincent Van Gogh is the subject of Schnabel's latest film, *At Eternity's Gate*, due to be released later this year. Willem Dafoe will play the lead. I wondered how long the project had been germinating. "Things are very connected. How long did it take to make this painting? And you could say, 'Sixty-six years and five minutes.' Everything is linked," said Schnabel, whose conversation can be much like his painting: expansive and sometimes abstract.

In May, he will be exhibiting a collection of his paintings in London's Pace Gallery. An assistant brought them out to show me and leant the 12 paintings, each two metres tall, against the studio walls. Schnabel instructed the assistant to move one a touch to the left, another a touch to the right. Encircled by his art, his mood brightened and relaxed.

He paced in front of the dozen enlarged 19th-century calendar prints, which he has painted over with dark-green amorphous shapes, bringing to mind spindly winter branches, twisting vines, cracked ice, blooms of mould. He said that as he was painting, he felt as if he was communing with the bucolic scenes beneath. He likes the idea that as you move chronologically from month to month, your mind searches the abstract marks for a sense of progression. "You read it like there's some kind of narrative. There seems to be a story

Photographs **Tom Powel Imaging; Julian Schnabel/ARS, New York/Dacs 2018**

or voyage that has occurred," he said. I asked about a faint paw print in the thick, glossy paint and Schnabel craned towards the canvas and concluded, "Yeah, the dog probably walked on that." He likes to paint outside so that nature can leave its imprint on his art.

Then Schnabel moved restlessly around his studio, testing ideas out loud, "Is that what an artist does? You do something you think might help people in some way? Well, you do it for yourself really." He grew more solicitous. "You should make up whatever you want to write," he offered. His phone rang almost constantly. He is preparing for exhibitions in Berlin and San Francisco this spring and is currently editing *At Eternity's Gate*.

"I'm not nostalgic about the Eighties at all. I'm much happier now," he said. His girlfriend, the designer Louise Kugelberg, is helping him on the film. Kugelberg, like all the women with whom Schnabel has been romantically linked, has model good looks. "She's incredible," he said, sounding momentarily like a lovestruck teenager. "I mean, she's very perceptive... It's like having eyes at the back of my head."

Schnabel's work often involves his family. He has six children: three with his first wife, designer Jacqueline Beaurang; twins with his second wife, the actress Olatz López Garmendia; and a four-year-old son with the model May Andersen. The oldest five all work in creative industries.

"There was a training that made all my brothers and sisters and I very brave," his daughter Lola once said in a documentary. She said he taught her to ski by taking her to the top of a black slope and asking her to follow him. "That's not true, but it makes a good story," Schnabel said. "You realise when you hear something like that that history is all a lie and everyone's got their own version of it and it's true to them but not necessarily to you."

Schnabel doesn't intend *At Eternity's Gate* to be a factual account of Van Gogh's life. "It's not a forensic biopic. It's an invention," he said. He wanted to capture what the Dutch postimpressionist once described as the "inaccuracies" that make a portrait "more true than the literal truth". The film concerns itself with Van Gogh's final period, when he painted prolifically and descended into madness, cutting off his own ear and, two years later, killing himself. Yet ultimately, Schnabel said, it will be a film about painting. "Anyone who thinks they know the truth about what happened to Van Gogh is a bigger liar than I am," he said. But, he promised, "You'll see the movie and you'll believe it."

AT ETERNITY'S GATE WILL BE RELEASED LATER THIS YEAR. JULIAN SCHNABEL IS AT PACE GALLERY LONDON FROM 18 MAY TO 22 JUNE. *PACEGALLERY.COM*

Politics

Remain can't reason its way out of Brexit

It's time to face facts: the campaign to stay in needs to reclaim the myths many Britons live by

Story by **Matthew d'Ancona**

I was recently assured by a prominent Remainer that the chances of Brexit going ahead on 29 March 2019 were diminishing fast. "Facts have altered," he declared. "And when facts change, so does public opinion."

Ah, *facts* – remember them? What this optimistic crusader meant was that the negotiations with Brussels were proving bumpy; that parliament was flexing its muscles; that the Conservative government might fall at any moment; and that the electorate had been sold a pup by the Leave campaigns.

All of which might be true. But – if the extraordinary politics of the past two years have a clear lesson – it is that facts alone do not drive electoral decisions. Brexit, Donald Trump's victory, the Corbyn surge: these were all the product of emotion, of connection with a candidate or a message, of the excitingly viscerally defeating the boringly rational.

It is fair to say that Labour's newly flexible approach to the EU customs union has made possible all sorts of cross-party parliamentary alliances that may thwart Theresa May's Brexit strategy in the commons. The remarkable work of the *Observer*'s Carole Cadwalladr on the shadowy use of digital technology in the referendum campaign has – at the very least – laid bare the insecurity underpinning the Leavers' robust slogans. The polls tell no consistent tale about public sentiment on Brexit, but there is undoubtedly a growing openness to a second referendum.

But none of this will add up to a hill of beans – let alone an EU butter mountain – if it is not aligned with a completely new narrative. One of the many reasons that the Remain campaign failed in 2016 was that it simply bombarded the voters with statistical claims – Brexit would destroy 950,000 UK jobs, the cost of leaving would be £3,700 a household, the average wage would fall by £850, and so on and so on.

As a persuasive message, it failed spectacularly (psychologists led by Dartmouth College's Brendan Nyhan have identified the so-called "backfire effect", whereby the strident use of factual claims to change minds can actually reinforce existing prejudice). If the Remainers were to revive this strategy – "We told you so, it's all heading south" – they would not only fail, but deserve to fail.

Let us be candid: the odds are still stacked against those who would thwart Brexit. But, as members of a free and democratic society, they have every right to try. What should they be saying?

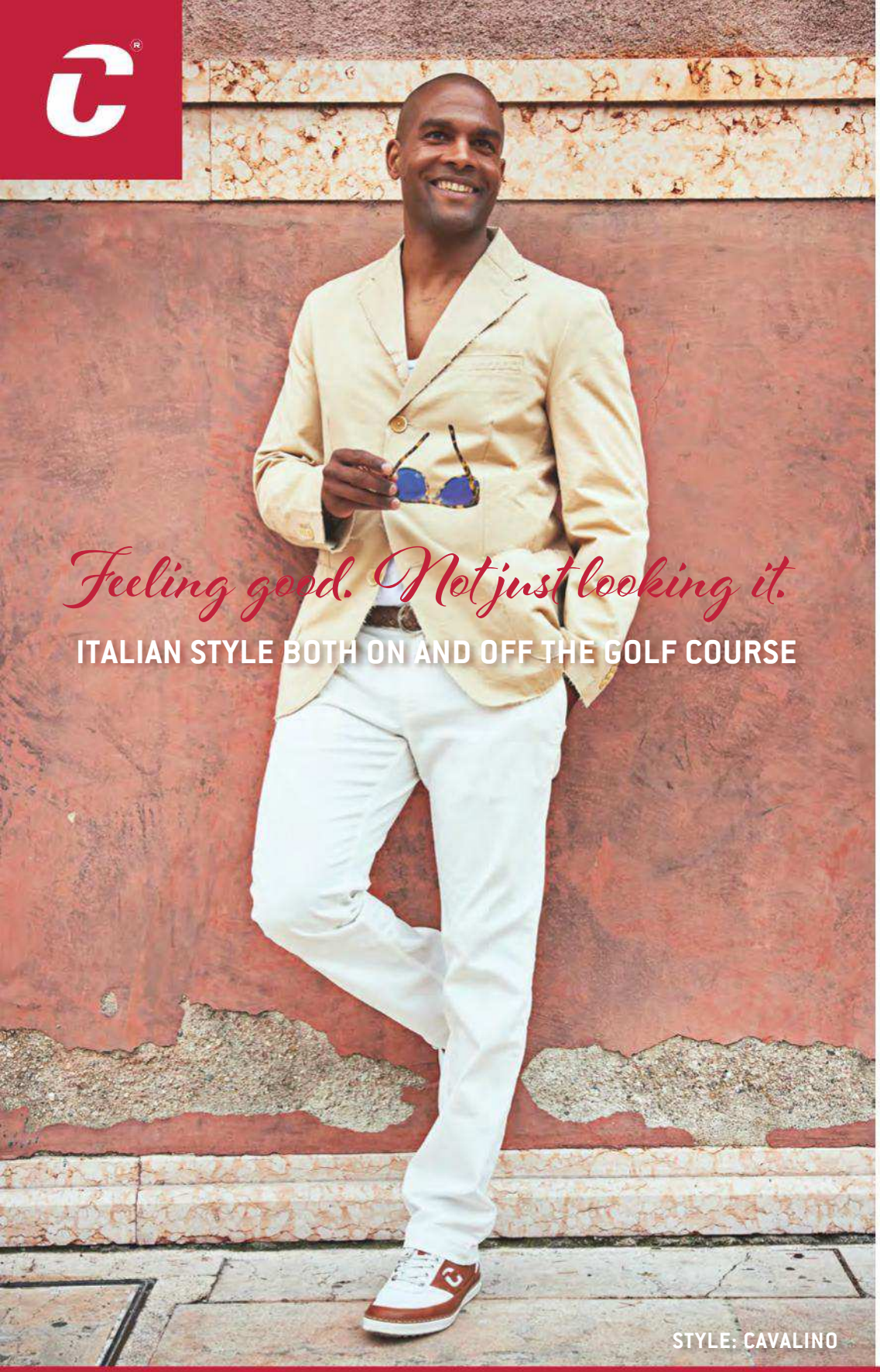
The modern fixation with "authenticity" is often vacuous. But it contains a kernel of truth – which is that honesty, integrity and realism can (sometimes) cut through the cacophony of the digital madhouse.

So telling it straight is the best, though not the easiest, way to proceed. Jonah Sachs, the branding entrepreneur, has touted the lessons of "empowerment marketing" – ie, promoting stories that call "their listeners to growth and maturity" rather than to irrationality and fear. The idea, in short, is to treat those with whom we interact – voters or consumers – as adults, rather than civic infants to be palmed off with quick fixes.

In the case of Brexit, telling it straight means constructing a case for continued EU membership that is based on a bold, unflinching recognition of what it is to be a citizen in the 21st century.

Yes, globalisation has brought with it terrible pathologies that have weaponised the new populism of the right. But the increasing openness of the world has also transformed the opportunities available to ordinary people, such as work, study, travel and cultural experience. Even those who never leave their houses benefit from this thrilling cross-fertilisation: in cheaper goods; technological progress; labour supply; and the inherent benefits of living in an open society.

This is not a straightforward sell. It is easier to build walls than bridges. It takes less effort to adopt the foetal crouch than it does to stride forth. But the Remainer message should always have been – and still can be – that the true British instinct is to venture out, not hide away.



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Music

I pod, therefore I am

By offering audio alongside analysis, podcasts are playing to real fans' interests in ways other media can't

Story by **Dorian Lynskey** Illustration by **Marta D'Asaro**

So this was how *NME* ended in March: not with a bang but a whimper. The demise of the print edition after 66 years was perhaps no great loss. In its final incarnation *NME* had lost faith in its readers' ability to enjoy journalism of substance and integrity, so it's hardly shocking that those readers lost interest. At the same time, many people still want to read meaty music coverage and indeed listen to it in the form of podcasts. While most music podcasts are based on discussions or interviews, Tyler Mahan Coe's *Cocaine & Rhinestones*, Cole Cuchna's *Dissect* and Chris Molanphy's *Hit Parade* are blazing a more ambitious trail. Could music journalism's new horizon be the longform podcast?

Two years ago, Cuchna was listening to Kendrick Lamar's *To Pimp A Butterfly* and got thinking about applying his training in classical music composition to the album. "I knew there were things I was missing," says Cuchna, who lives in Sacramento. "Art can teach us a lot, but we have to make ourselves available to it." The result was *Dissect*, a kind of hip hop Open University that unpacks a classic album (series two covered Kanye West's *My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy*) track by track. "Studying Kendrick and his story changed the way I viewed the world," Cuchna says. "I've heard from many listeners who have the same story. I just want people to appreciate art more in their everyday lives."

Tyler Mahan Coe has found *Cocaine & Rhinestones* similarly rewarding. The son of Nashville maverick David Allan Coe, he's spent his life in the country music industry and was struck by the absence of podcasts about the genre's history. "That bothered me a lot, because it feels like stories that don't make it into podcast form are in danger of being marginalised and even forgotten," says Coe. "I realised I was going to have to be the one to make it. I'm finding new ways to tell old stories so that people who think they don't care will realise that they do."

The introduction for each episode is "I've heard these stories my whole life. As far as I can tell, here's the truth about this one." Appropriately for a genre that valorises storytelling, Coe is a charismatic raconteur with a delicious sense of humour and an unpredictable approach to narrative. Each episode takes fascinating detours into, say, the psychology of celebrity, the history of the United States' obscenity laws or the etymology of the word "hit". And if a story thrills, amuses or upsets him, you can hear it in his voice. "When I read them, everything comes alive for me, good and bad," he says.

On *Hit Parade*, which tells tales from a half-century of chart history, Chris Molanphy shares the eye-opening stories behind famous hits such as "Do They Know It's Christmas?" and "Walk This Way". Perhaps my favourite music journalism of last year was the episode "The Great War Against The Single Edition", a staggering tale of one-hit wonders and major-label chicanery. "A podcast is like a TV episode or *This American Life*," says Molanphy. "It needs an arc."

The obvious advantage that podcasts have over text is that you can play the music you're discussing. "To me, audio clips are the hyperlink on steroids," says Molanphy. "One of the nicest compliments I received was that my show felt like reading a really good article in *Rolling Stone*, but you can hear exactly what I'm talking about. I practically fell over with happiness."

Then there's the allure of the voice. Podcasting is an auteur-friendly medium that fosters a powerful connection between listener and host. "As much as I tried to keep myself out of the podcast, I discovered my audience was not only drawn to my analysis, but also to me as a person," says Cuchna. "I slowly started to integrate more of my personality into the show." He and Coe both record at home after dark. Perhaps solitude and darkness intensify that intimacy: there's nobody else around, just you and him, and he wants to tell you a story.

None of this comes easily. A deep-dive, longform podcast is a labour of love that requires an extraordinary amount of work (each episode of *Cocaine & Rhinestones* takes around 100 hours to research, write, record and edit) on a tight budget. While *Hit Parade* is produced by the online magazine Slate, Coe and Cuchna's podcasts have so far relied on funding from Patreon backers, although Spotify has recently stepped in to turn *Dissect* into a full-time job.

It's encouraging that all three podcasts have found a passionate, and growing, audience. When, as a listener, I revel in the opportunity to slow down and bury myself in one record or story, I'm enjoying the same focus that inspired the hosts in the first place. "I found myself scrolling and swiping through my life," says Cuchna. "*Dissect* was a rebellion against that habit. I was going to force myself, and then my audience, to spend a lot of time on one thing. I didn't think there would be a big audience for a show that was so in-depth but there is. I think people are starving for it."

I think so too. Longform podcasts give music fans what *NME*, towards the end, could not: the sensation that they're in the company of people who really care.

Sport

Death to the hazinator

Initiation ceremonies are degrading, outdated and sometimes even deadly. It's up to our institutions to stop derogatory 'team building' from tearing competitors down

Story by **Martin Samuel** Illustration by **Davide Bonazzi**

To those who have played for a university sports team, the concept of safe spaces must appear rather ironic. That students need to be protected from the challenge of Germaine Greer or Julie Bindel must be strange to those who have walked the streets in a nappy, pulled a dead rat out of a bucket with their teeth or gone out for the night smeared in Pedigree Chum.

The initiation ceremonies still prevalent in British universities are the antithesis of a safe space. Indeed, the Rugby Football Union is so concerned with dwindling participation numbers as a result of this culture, it has set up an educational working group in an attempt to influence the next generation of student players. The estimate is that 10,000 school leavers were lost to rugby in recent times, with many blaming the sport's penchant for humiliating initiations and stupid, laddish excess. If only it was that simple.

Charlotte (not her real name, but a real person) was a county-standard athlete who went to the University Of Nottingham. She made the squad, one of the few freshers to do so. There seemed to be a hierarchy at work. Before the season began, there was a team bonding night. The theme: ladies and the tramps. The established team members cast themselves as "ladies", all fancy gowns, tiaras and long gloves. No need to guess who played the "tramps". The new girls were ordered not to wear make-up and were then dressed in bin liners. Dirt was smeared on their faces, dog food smeared in their hair. This wasn't a private ceremony either. They went into town, to a popular student nightclub. It seems rugby's lad culture doesn't end with the lads – this was netball. And like those 10,000 rugby players, Charlotte doesn't participate any more. She didn't play after her first year, in fact.

Rob, at Liverpool, didn't even make it that far. University hockey clubs are famously brutal – maybe it's the boarding school influence, lots of big boys all too used to pushing little boys around. None of the new intake were called by their name. "Fresher, do this. Fresher, do that." Then they were told to get down on all fours and moo like cows. "If we all have to do it, and these idiots really thought it was going to make us win hockey games, then I'll moo like a cow," said Rob. "But not just the freshers." He walked out, but came back the next day for training and the team meeting. The freshers were told to sit on the floor, the rest of the team on chairs around them. He walked again, but this time never returned. He played for a club, on Saturday, instead – a club where grown men, with jobs and families to support, called younger men by their names.

When one considers the traditions that universities have abandoned or at least challenged – the statues of ancient benefactors slated for demolition, the respected speakers denied a platform – should young women prodded into the street in nappies or demeaned in bin liners be considered part of normal university life? Would that be tolerated if, say, black students or any other minority were singled out? Of course not, so how is this acceptable? When did freshers become a subspecies?

The inquiry into sex abuse in football is creeping towards this area too, into allegations of historic abusive initiation ceremonies at clubs such as Stoke City, where George Blackstock – then a 16-year-old apprentice – claims to have been dragged "kicking and screaming" into the first-team dressing room. A goalkeeper glove was smeared with Ralgex (a deep heat cream) and a finger inserted in his anus. Peter Fox, the senior Stoke player accused, denied the act and was cleared at Preston County Court.

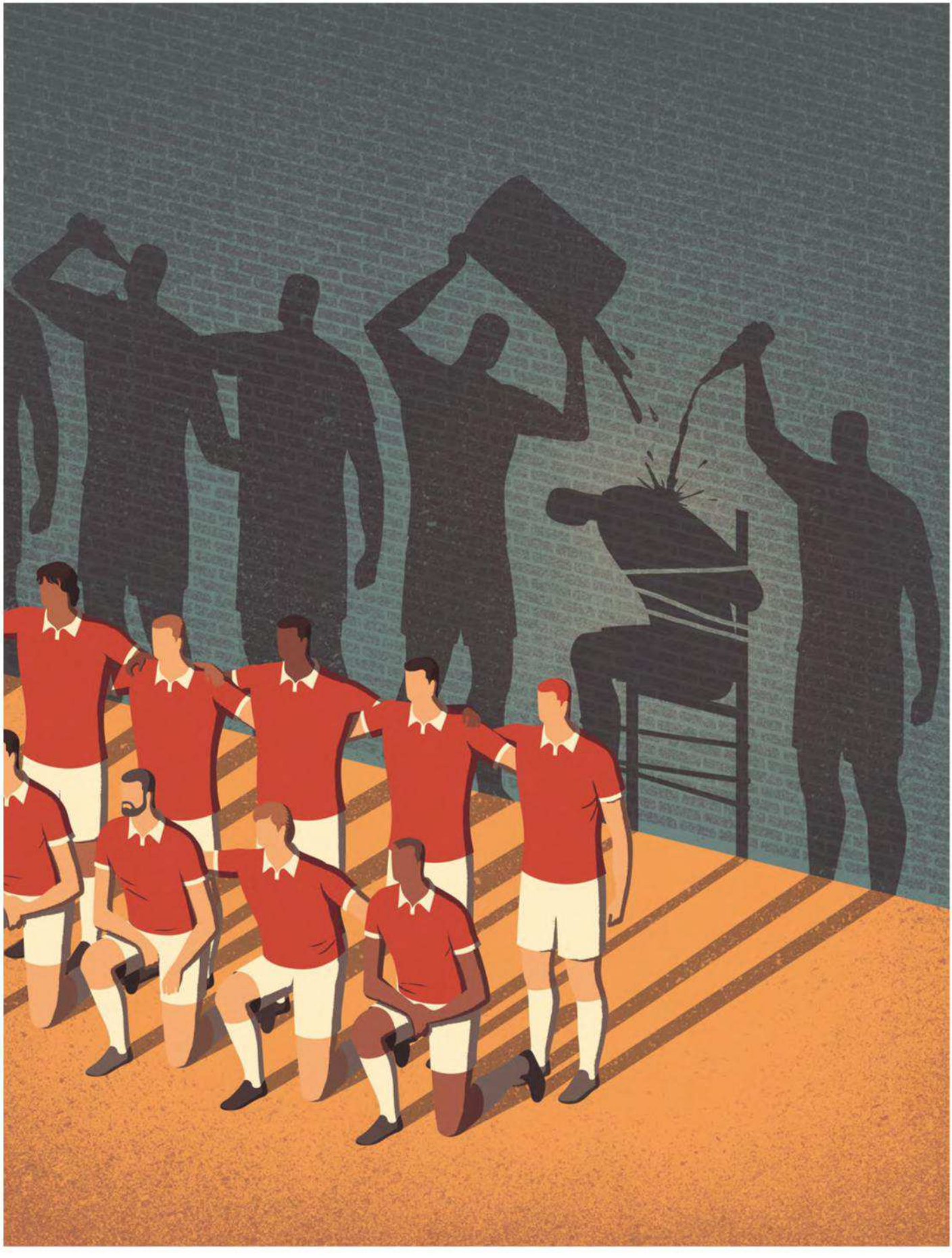
Yet the words of Stoke's barrister are telling. He described "punishments, pranks and initiations" at clubs as "common" and warned against "taking the lid off Pandora's box". Meaning: this kind of behaviour is rife. At many clubs an initiation might involve nothing more harmful than standing on a chair and singing a song – and the way clubs now operate on social media, some of these mortifications are even broadcast – but this is considered part of team building. Putting one's ego aside is important for successful team sport. A few self-conscious verses of "Danny Boy" shows you are willing to serve the group; taking a chilli-spiked carrot up the fundament, however, has nothing to do with team dynamics and everything to do with sick bullying and the abuse of power.

At my eldest son's school in London there was a tradition at the end of the season. The annual rugby dinner, to which all of the first and second XV players were invited, ended in a naked run around the green opposite the school. Silly stuff. Rugby stuff. His old man, whose school played football and kept its trousers on, couldn't understand it. Eventually one year they were caught by the deputy head and the practice ended. Yet number one son, who played rugby league at university in part because of the atmosphere surrounding the rugby union club, always staunchly defended the naked run as different to initiations.

"Everyone does it," he explained. "Whether it's your first year in the team or you're the captain. No one gets bullied. It's not about control. If you didn't want to join in, fine. But everyone did – from the best player to someone who has scraped into the seconds. It is part of the fun, being part of the group. Initiations are different. They're a power trip."

Steve Grainger, rugby development director at the RFU, knows his sport has to be most proactive in this area. "When you do hear about it, your stomach turns," he said. "On initiations, we take a pretty hard line when it is brought to our attention."

Yet while it is a problem for rugby, it is not actually rugby's problem. Or, at least, not rugby's alone. The stories brought back from our learning institutions transcend sports, and gender. In 2006, Gavin Britton, a student at the University Of Exeter, died of alcohol poisoning after an initiation for the golf club. The practice continues, though, and universities turn a blind eye because athletic pursuits are part of the sell. Far easier to no-platform Greer or Bindel than to disband the hockey club. In the US, where the practice of hazing is equally familiar, there is, on average, one death a year. It happens. It shouldn't. It is the responsibility of the universities to end this and the scandal is all theirs if they do not.



Travel

Jet rich or fly trying

Availing oneself of first-class flight requires resources not all of us command, but there is a trick to turning left that every man should use

Story by **Tony Parsons** Illustration by **Stephan Schmitz**

Upgrades happen. The kindness of major airlines is real and tangible. Clearly, you will never get bumped up to first class if you are drunk, stoned, dishevelled, rude or, most importantly, desperate.

From Hong Kong's Chek Lap Kok to London's Heathrow to Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, I have seen men (they were all men) trying to blag, bluster and bully their way into first class. Many of them used the old "you have made a terrible mistake with my booking" ruse. Some of them turned the volume up to ten, under the delusion that you can somehow shout your way to the front of the plane. You can't. Any form of rudeness at the check-in desk is absolutely guaranteed to keep you in the cheap and nasty seat that you have paid for.

And yet upgrades happen all the time. In my experience, they happen most frequently to attractive couples, and airlines have no preference for straight or gay. And an upgrade always feels like a winning lottery ticket. Witness the film on GQ.co.uk of Casey Neistat, winner of a *GQ* New Media Man Of The Year Award, who was upgraded from business to first class on an Emirates flight between Dubai and New York and made a short film about this lucky day. The flight was everything you would expect of a £16,000 seat – actually, it is more of an individual suite rather than anything as plebeian as a seat. There is a motorised bar, widescreen TV, a shower room so lush it would not be out of place in a five-star hotel, plus enough room to swing a small copilot. But what you notice most about Neistat's nine-minute film is that he is never less than delirious with happiness. The bed! The shower! Watching TV! In that first-class cabin on Emirates, Neistat was glad to be alive. But here's the thing: you can never count on being upgraded. And after your 30th birthday, who the hell wants to get in the queue for economy?

This is the golden age for air travel. Forget all the doom and gloom about flying in a time of terror and the penny-pinching misery of budget airlines. Never in human history have so many people flown to faraway places in such style. Business class is better than ever – 20 years ago, business class was full of these reclining seats in which you'd wake up with some fat bloke's head snoring and snuffling in your lap. That never happens any more. Fully flat beds are now the norm in business. The fat bloke in front of you in business now has his own self-contained bed. And first class has never been so fabulous because of ferocious competition among airlines for premium passengers.

"Premium air travel used to consist of little more than a comfy seat, a slightly more palatable meal and a regular top-up of your wine glass," said the *Times*. "Not any more. Today's first-class cabins often resemble five-star hotels in the sky. For passengers with deep pockets, the most expensive airline tickets can come with access to a double bed, personal shower, food prepared by Michelin-starred chefs and a luxury Bulgari amenity bag."

Like Neistat, I have flown first class on Emirates on someone else's dime. The experience is everything Neistat cracks it up to be – and Emirates is not even the best first class around. But before you can truly appreciate first class, you must do your time in the cheap seats. There is nothing wrong with roughing

Illustration **Folio Art**

it when you are young, nothing wrong with gap-year austerity. Indeed, it is good to serve your sentence in cattle class. Because, when you move further up the cabin, as you climb the ranks over decades through economy to club to first class, those hard, cramped hours in steerage ensure you never take anything for granted in the good seats – the double windows, personal wardrobe, 15-inch TV screen, 6'6" flat bed. But it is true what they say: first class is the heroin of travel. And once you have had a taste, you will always want more.

The first time I was ever on a plane was when I was a young music journalist flying to Philadelphia. Incredible, unimaginable adventures were waiting for me: staying up all night with Thin Lizzy, meeting Bruce Springsteen backstage, going to see David Johansen with The Clash on their (and my) first trip to New York. But none of it was as exciting as being on that first plane. And it was not even a plane that worked: we were stalled on the Heathrow tarmac for six hours as the ground crew grappled with technical problems. I did not give a damn. I was on a plane to Philadelphia! Naturally, I was squeezed into economy, close enough to the back of the plane to taste the clouds of cigarette smoke. But it was one of the happiest days of my life.

And I was so young and dumb that I did not even know I was being flown to Philadelphia on the cheap. That there could possibly be a finer seat than the one I occupied was beyond my comprehension. A few years later, when I was inexplicably upgraded to first on a flight from St Louis, Missouri to Charlotte, North Carolina I wasn't even sure what was going on; I could not understand why I suddenly had all this space. But you can't stay young and dumb forever. The joys of sitting in overcrowded squalor for 12 hours wear off. You can't be a peasant-class Peter Pan for a lifetime, forever condemned to join the back of the "coach" queue at check-in, destined for the slow lane at security, always the last to board. Flying is one of the great joys of the modern world, truly one of the great things about being alive. Few things on this planet give me more pure, undiluted pleasure than being above the clouds, slightly buzzed, totally disconnected from the world below, staring down at wastelands of Mongolia or the misty South China Sea or the blue Caribbean. But budget travelling sucks the joy right out of it. So how do we ensure that we always fly as well as we possibly can? Simple: we do it by committing to one airline.

When I was a young man and just starting to travel seriously, at that point in my life when I realised how much I bloody loved getting on a plane and shooting off to the far side of the planet, I walked around with my wallet stuffed full of executive-club cards. I must have had a dozen. Japanese airlines, Scandinavian airlines, Asian airlines, American airlines. But an airline is like a gym. You only really need one. You only want one. You are much better off with just one. If you belong to a dozen gyms, you will never get fit. And if you spread yourself thin over multiple executive clubs, you will never reap the rewards that are waiting if you commit to just one.

I just spent 720,000 air miles on three first-class return tickets to Tokyo. At the time of writing, those flights are being listed at £13,729… each. And I paid for them with 720,000 air miles collected from the British Airways Executive Club. It is simply not possible to accumulate that number of air miles if you do not have a preferred airline and use it as often as possible – for business, for pleasure and for everything in between.

I have had a long relationship with British Airways. As with any relationship that spans 25 years, we have had our ups and downs. There were suitcases that went to South America instead of Spain. There was the software problem that caused baggage mayhem. There was the snowy weather that kept me in Oslo longer than I wanted. But I have stood by my airline. Because there have been numerous acts of kindness by British Airways staff, especially when my daughter was tiny and cried upon takeoff, puked upon landing and always seemed to demand the toilet just as the seatbelt lights went on. British Airways staff have always helped me when I needed them most. And standing by your chosen airline is the only thing that makes sense for the serious traveller. You fly best when you give your heart and credit card details to just one airline.

When you are young, nothing is more likely to make you feel like an international man of mystery than belonging to multiple executive clubs. But if you want to enjoy the benefits of all those hard-earned air miles, then in the end you have to commit to one airline. That is the only way to ensure that flying is an ecstatic, transcendent experience. You can't always fly with the same airline, of course: I went to Montenegro with Air Serbia because British Airways don't fly there. But when I made business trips to Singapore and Germany, I requested my preferred airline, BA, and that's how I flew. Having a favourite airline is always possible – and the only way to make sure that you are eligible for all the good stuff on offer. You want to be able to check in at first class, even if you are not flying first class. If there are airside spas available, as there are in the lounges of London Heathrow Terminal 5, then you want access. British Airways just opened a new security check for first class and Executive Club Gold members, The First Wing at Terminal 5. It is beautiful, a golden enclosure of scalloped steel and glass, lit by a mirrored chandelier. The First Wing at T5 makes one of the boring chores of modern travel a seamless experience. It is like going through security in heaven. And isn't that the only way to fly? But the price of entry is either a first-class ticket or an Executive Club Gold card. And once you get that Gold card, you want to make it last for a lifetime.

British Airways awards you lifetime Gold membership of its Executive Club if you clock up 35,000 tier points. That is not easy or quick, but it is attainable with half a lifetime of serious travel.

I have dreamed of lifetime Gold for years. And recently I found a man who shared my dream. We met at a party, strangers with the same secret desire. I let slip how I longed – *yearned* – for lifetime Gold membership of the British Airways Executive Club. And my new friend stared at me with the shock of recognition. Because so did he.

And he knew exactly what it took: those 35,000 lifetime tier points (British Airways, in its infinite generosity, lets you keep the tier points you earn forever, whereas some airlines make you go back to zero every year). Naturally, we did not need to explain our frame of reference – you collect air miles and tier points for every flight and the air miles can be redeemed for flights and other services, whereas the tier points determine what colour card the Executive Club gives you. For example, a British Airways flight in first class from Heathrow to Las Vegas earns 18,277 air miles and 210 tier points – and you need 1,500 tier points to retain your Gold card every year. That's a few long-haul flights plus some hops around Europe. Yes, a lot of flying. But, oh, the thought of being Gold forever…

As the wind whistled across the Welsh mountains, my new friend and I compared tier points and discovered we were both just under the 30,000 mark – most of the marathon run but there was still far to go. Our eyes shone at the prospect. Because my new friend understood.

Flying is glorious. Flying is magical. Flying is – even in 2018 – the cover of Sinatra's *Come Fly With Me*. But you will never know it if you never get out of the cheap seats.

Television

Why you need to watch Atlanta right now

What do you get when you cross a pin-sharp examination of urban poverty with surrealist satire? The answer is TV's most serious comedy

Story by **Stuart McGurk**

There's a moment in *Atlanta* – the funny and urgent and alternately angry and stoned drama from Donald Glover, which is set to do for the city what *The Wire* did for Baltimore – that sums up the series' mix of social commentary, dreamlike fable, gritty realism and Cheech & Chong.

Glover – also known by his hip hop alter-ego Childish Gambino, Troy in *Community* and the young Lando Calrissian in *Star Wars* prequel *Solo* – plays Earnest "Earn" Marks, a Princeton dropout and sometime manager of his cousin, hip hop wannabe Alfred "Paper Boi" Miles. In the fourth episode, Earn – perennially broke, essentially homeless, struggling to provide for his daughter – visits a pawn shop to sell his phone with Paper Boi's right-hand man, Darius, who's part visionary, part idiot and full savant. He finds Darius gazing at a Samurai sword. "Get this sword," he says. "We could trade up on it. Get you a lot more money."

And so, like in a nursery rhyme, they trade phone for sword, then sword for dog and then take the dog to a dog breeder, who'll sell the eventual puppies for $2,000 a pop and return a handsome profit… in a few months. Earn is aghast: "See, I'm poor, Darius," he explains. "And poor people need to eat *today*, not in September."

Atlanta is about a lot of things – race in the US, the music industry, how social media tramples social interaction, Atlanta itself – but the prime one is poverty, how being poor comes with its own tariffs, how having money comes with its own dividends.

We watch as Earn must shell out hundreds just for the pleasure of being drug-tested; when asked if he can pay, he replies incredulously, *"No!"* If he could, he wouldn't be there in the first place.

Atlanta is a comedy, but has the natural rhythms of drama rather than the rigged rat-a-tat of sitcom. And yet, as much as it doesn't shy away from the reality of those hustling day-to-day, it has a woozy (or maybe just stoned), dreamlike quality to it – not quite the full-on backwards-talking midgets of David Lynch, but small snatched moments of surrealism, at once both unreal and yet too real, like the moment just after an accident.

It's there in the very first scene of the first episode, when Darius – in the middle of a tense gun-drawn standoff – dreamily says he's having a moment of "crazy déjà vu" and correctly predicts the appearance of a dog. In one episode, a rapper is said to have an invisible car, which is disbelieved until an accident sends people flying like puppets whose strings have been yanked. In another, we meet "Justin Bieber", who's exactly like the Justin Bieber you know and hate, except, well, this Justin Bieber is black.

All of these are funny, yet none are quite jokes and that's sort of the point. Glover delights in delivering more setups than punchlines and the result gives the show a quality of constant anxiety. And isn't that, after all, what poverty boils down to – never quite knowing what's next, knowing your destiny is never quite not your own? Someone knocks on Paper Boi's door in a Batman mask, only to run away when told he's in. A boy in class sits at the back in "white face", grinning. *Atlanta* is often as unsettling as it is funny.

Alt-dramedy Atlanta stars Brian Tyree Henry as Paper Boi and (right) Lakeith Stanfield as Darius

The show is Glover's – he's both exec producer and head writer – but Glover's character isn't the centre of the show. Sure, he has his Tim-from-*The-Office* moments, such as the episode set in a nightclub in which he lets loose: "I hate shots! I hate the club! I hate the people at the club!" He has the occasional Larry-David-in-*Curb* moments, such as the time he rails at the fact the local fast-food place won't let him buy a child's meal unless he's a child: "So the kid has to wait in line and order a kid's meal? Do you have to be Chubby Checker to buy the Chubby Checker?"

But the heart of the show belongs to Paper Boi (played by Brian Tyree Henry), by turns insider and outsider, both aware of the game he's playing, but forever bemused by it, hulking around a frame that frightens but tired of having to use it. With his self-titled song, he's got a verifiable hit, but he makes no money from it (especially ironic as the song itself is about making money: "Paper Boi, Paper Boi / Always gettin' paper, boy / If you ain't makin' money / Then you ain't a money maker, boy") and so he must deal weed to get by. But even here he comes undone.

In the second episode of the new series – entitled "Robbin' Season" after the real pre-Christmas period in Atlanta when theft increases – Paper Boi finds himself mugged by his own plug (ie, his wholesale dealer). When the gun is pulled his eyes widen, but out of sadness rather than fear. He exhales loudly and the exhale seems to say, *God damn. Even this?*

The plug, meanwhile, is pragmatic. He takes Paper Boi's keys so he won't drive after him ("Appreciate it, brah"), eventually lets him out after navigating the child lock ("That's the window, man!" says Paper Boi, frustrated) and says he would take him home, but won't, as "You might come out shooting at me and shit." Finally, holding the gun out of the car window as he drives off, the plug says, "Sorry about this, man. I'm gonna pay you back."

We end with the sad silhouette of Paper Boi standing in the middle of the road, a situation both serious and surreal. From one perspective, what happened makes perfect sense and yet, from another, it makes no sense at all. **GQ**

ATLANTA SERIES TWO STARTS NEXT MONTH ON FOX UK.

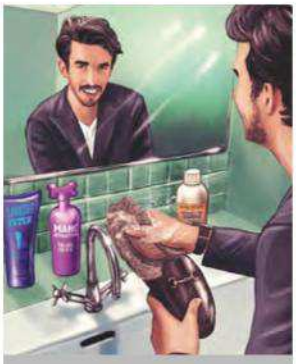
Photographs **FX**

GQ.co.uk

This month on

Drink

...in style with our selection of the best bars around London and the UK, updated with the shortlist and winners from the fourth annual *GQ* Food & Drink Awards.



Ask

...our Style Shrink Teo van den Broeke your pressing fashion and grooming questions using the hashtag #GQStyleShrink.

Read

...Orwell Prize longlisted writer and *New European* editor Matt Kelly's brilliant columns on Brexit and British politics.

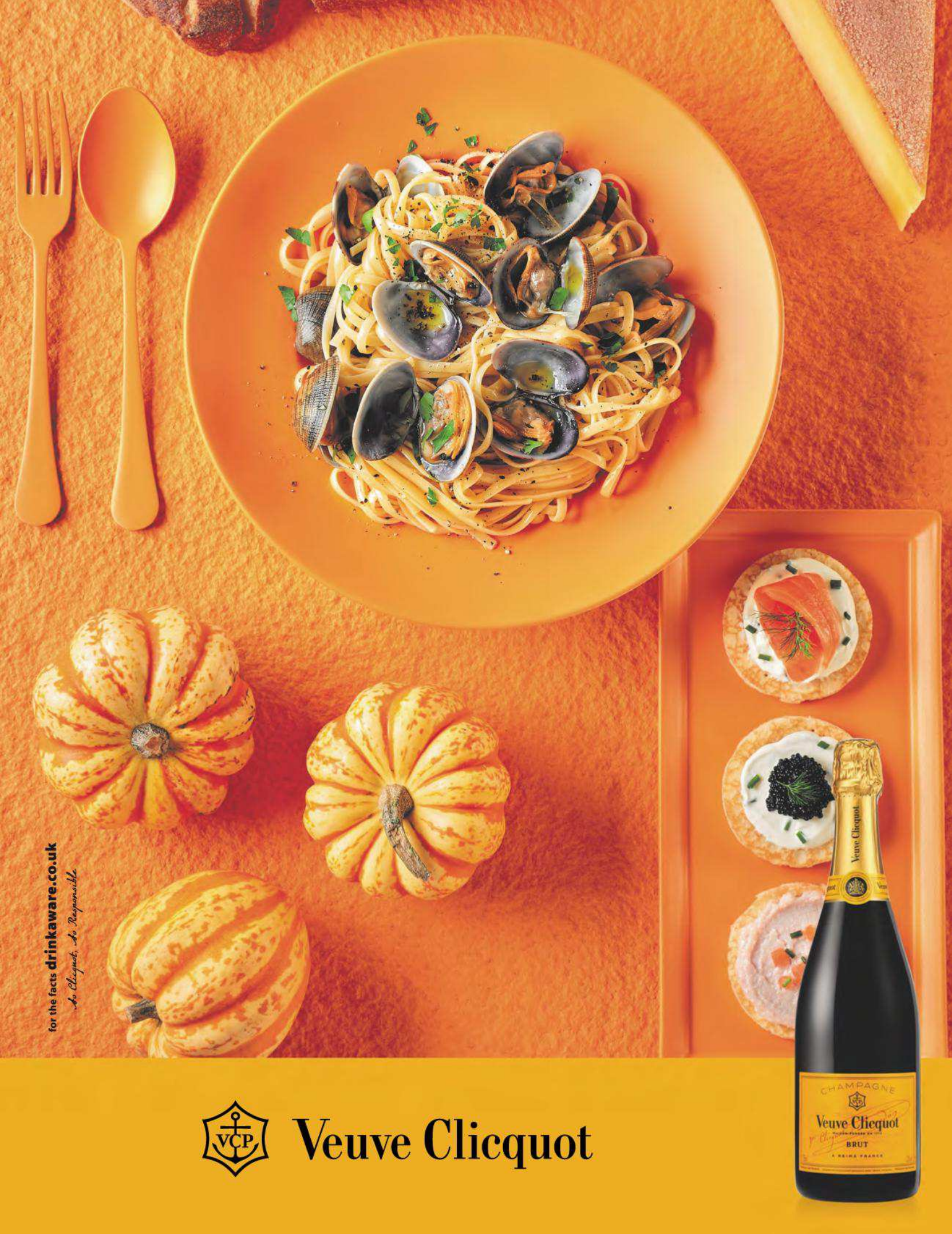
Watch

...films from behind the scenes with *GQ* cover stars past and present, from Ed Sheeran to Dua Lipa, on our YouTube channel.

Update

...your wardrobe with the ten best new menswear items, published every Tuesday.

Photograph **Andrew Testa** Illustration **Sam Gilbey**


for the facts drinkaware.co.uk
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INCLUDING **Winner of the Lifetime Achievement award, River Cafe's Ruth Rogers**

BRITISH GQ

FOOD & DRINK AWARDS 2018

REVEALED

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

Veuve Clicquot

From hotels to restaurants and bars to pubs, for the fourth year running, we commend the inspired and inspiring chefs, hosts, sommeliers and owners who make British hospitality the greatest in the world

MEET THE JUDGES

Introducing the nine good men and women of GQ's expert panel, who lead their fields of food and drink, publishing, hospitality and interiors

Dylan Jones
Since Dylan Jones became Editor of *GQ* in 1999, the magazine has won 67 awards. Jones has also penned multiple books on subjects as diverse as music and politics, been awarded an OBE, is chairman of London Fashion Week Men's and board member of the British Fashion Council.

Bertrand Steip
Bertrand Steip has enjoyed a celebrated career in the luxury drinks industry. After nearly three decades with Moët Hennessy, in 2017 he became managing director of the company's UK arm, which looks after prestigious brands including Belvedere, Glenmorangie and Veuve Clicquot.

Richard Corrigan
Richard Corrigan's culinary career spans several years in the Netherlands, a stint as head chef of Mulligan's in Mayfair and gaining his first Michelin star as head chef of Fulham Road in 1994. He has cooked for the Queen twice and been crowned a winner of *Great British Menu* no fewer than three times.

Ryan Chetiyawardana
Known in mixology circles as Mr Lyan (a childhood nickname), Ryan Chetiyawardana has spent four years wowing Londoners with Super Lyan and Dandelyan's genius cocktail menus. He has won many awards, including Best International Bartender at the 2015 Spirited Awards.

Tara Bernerd
Founder of Tara Bernerd & Partners, designer Tara Bernerd is a maven of luxury interior design. She has worked on high-end hospitality projects from the multimillion-pound redesign of New York's Sixty Soho hotel to restoring The Principal London to its former glory.

Nieves Barragán Mohacho
After nine years heading up the kitchens for Fino and Barrafina (earning the Soho branch a Michelin star en route), Nieves Barragán Mohacho, one of the best tapas chefs in the UK, has recently opened her highly anticipated first personal venture, Sabor.

Mark Hix
Chef, restaurateur and food writer Mark Hix is known for his original take on British gastronomy. After 17 years as chef director at Caprice Holdings, he left to open his own restaurant, Hix Oyster & Chop House, in 2008. Now, he has seen restaurants, showcasing the best of British ingredients.

Oliver Peyton
Oliver Peyton has been a fixture on the London food scene since he opened his first restaurant, Atlantic Bar & Grill, in the Nineties. In addition to judging *Great British Menu* since it started in 2006, Peyton is a founder and restaurateur of noted hospitality group Peyton And Byrne.

Matt Hobbs
Rising through the ranks from cutting bread in The Ivy in 1994 to managing the likes of Soho House New York and Annabel's, Matt Hobbs has learnt his trade from master restaurateurs and has been managing director of the famed Groucho Club since 2010.

Thanks to the craftsmanship, skill and artistic creativity at the House Of Waterford Crystal, this year our 13 award winners, were each presented with a stunning Lismore ice bucket. Meticulously handmade, it's the most enduring and iconic Waterford cut. To find out more about how these awards were created, visit GQ.uk/waterfordfilm.

For four years running, readers of British *GQ* have scoured this gloriously well-fed land for the very best in wining and dining, to show off the pick of the nation's world-class culinary bunch. And now the *GQ* Food & Drink Awards is back for 2018. You supped and sampled the length and breadth of Britain to set the shortlist and our panel of expert judges – acclaimed chefs, esteemed writers, an award-winning mixologist and a seasoned eater or two – have had the near-impossible job of choosing a winner from our 12 hotly contested category shortlists. With the support of our sublime partners Veuve Clicquot and Belvedere Vodka, the night of 23 April saw us celebrate the very best of the British food and beverage industry and toast our more than deserving winners, presenting them with their engraved Waterford Crystal ice buckets of victory. So, set your taste buds to tantalised because this is where you are going to be eating and drinking for the next 12 months...

Best Restaurant CORE by Clare Smyth

1 After gaining a starry reputation as chef patron at Restaurant Gordon Ramsay and receiving an MBE for services to the hospitality industry, Clare Smyth (*left*), the first and only female chef to run a restaurant with three Michelin stars in the UK, has hit refresh on fine-dining with her debut restaurant, Core. Serving up culinary excellence in a magnificent period building in Notting Hill, Core is vibrant and elegant, not pompous. There are no tablecloths, but there is luxury. The food offering here comes in the form of three- and five-course menus, plus a tasting menu.

Judge Richard Corrigan praises Smyth's "lightness of touch" when it comes to creating beautifully simple dishes and her passion for seeking out natural, sustainable food makes for a stunning approach to flavour in her seasonal menu. Technical and playful, Core has become the quiet champion of the fine-dining revolution.

92 Kensington Park Road, London W11. 020 3937 5086. corebyclaresmyth.com

Runner-up: The Barbary
Also nominated: Westerns Laundry, Native, The Spanish Butcher

Text by **Eleanor Davies** Photographs **Mitch Payne; Rebecca Reid/Eyevine**

From top: Pig's head fritter; outside Paul Ainsworth at No6; Tamar Valley hogget; Dartmoor fallow deer; (left) GQ's Best Chef 2018 Paul Ainsworth

2

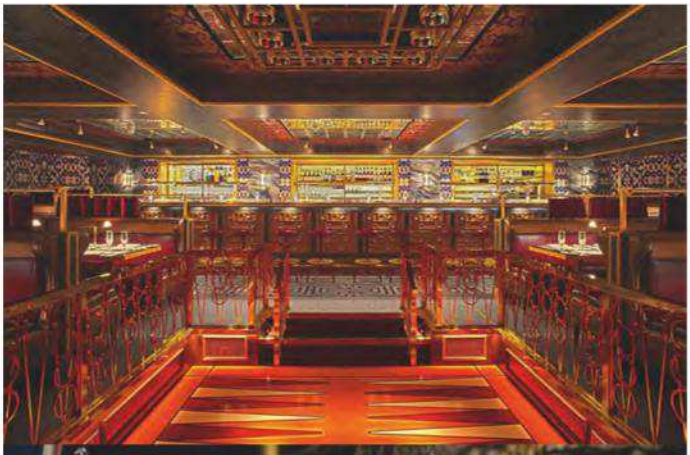
Best Chef PAUL AINSWORTH at No6

Having trained under the likes of Gary Rhodes, Gordon Ramsay and Marcus Wareing, Paul Ainsworth has gone from strength to strength. Now considered one of the greatest chefs in Britain in his own right, Ainsworth is renowned for his brilliant combinations, big bold flavours and beautiful colours. Taking full advantage of the amazing bounty available on his doorstep, Ainsworth's playful and brilliantly creative dishes at No6 showcase the best produce that Cornwall has to offer.

Ainsworth's skills lie in blending fashionable ingredients and techniques to create fresh and imaginative dishes. Judge Bertrand Steip praises Ainsworth as "one of the UK's most talented young chefs. His cuisine is both an original and modern take on classic British using only first-class seasonal ingredients." A true Cornish delicacy.

6 Middle Street, Padstow, Cornwall PL28 8AP. 01841 532093. paul-ainsworth.co.uk

Runner-up: Andrew Wong at A Wong
Also nominated: Anne-Sophie Pic at Le Dame De Pic, Tom Sellers at Restaurant Story, Mitsuhiro Araki at The Araki



From top: Bob Bob Ricard's below-ground Red Dining Room; salmon tartare; the all-booths Blue Dining Room

3 Best Interior BOB BOB RICARD

There is nothing mundane about Bob Bob Ricard. The iconic Soho restaurant, which serves luxury English comfort food with a Russian twist, has all the trimmings; it is absurd, eccentric and glamorous. Plenty about it is romantic, too: shining brass, hideaway booths and the waiters' pink waistcoats. Styled with the golden age of travel in mind, The Blue Dining Room on the ground floor has all-booth leather seating, transporting visitors to the Orient Express. Meanwhile, The Red Dining Room downstairs has distinctive backgammon motifs. Bob Bob Ricard's interior design combines classic London luxury with touches of wit and playfulness.

Judge Oliver Peyton applauds its harmony. "Every time I go back, I'm still in love with it. It stands the test of time. The whole thing is harmonious." Bob Bob Ricard is heavily Instagrammed for good reason.

1 Upper James Street, London W1. 020 3145 1000. bobbobricard.com

Runner-up: Sketch
Also nominated: Ichibuns, Nine Lives, Isabel

4 Best Breakthrough MOOR HALL

Situated in Aughton, Lancashire, in five acres of gardens with views of a lake that's said to be the remains of a medieval moat, is Moor Hall. Bought by Andy and Tracey Bell in 2015, the long-awaited restaurant with rooms opened in March last year, following an 18-month renovation. But it is their partnership with former L'Enclume executive chef Mark Birchall that makes Moor Hall so interesting. Birchall creates delicate, produce-driven menus inspired by Moor Hall's surroundings, but brings his knowledge together in a style of his own. "What a start to a new business," says judge Richard Corrigan. "Moor Hall is a stand out operation in every aspect." Awarded a Michelin star in its first year of business, you know it's the start of much more to come.

Prescot Road, Aughton, Lancashire L39 6RT. 01695 572511. moorhall.com

Runner-up: Ceremony
Also nominated: The Frog, Smoke & Salt in Pop Brixton, 108 Garage

5 Belvedere Best Bar SWIFT

A dream team collaboration from the people who brought us Oriole and Milk & Honey, Swift has a split personality. On the ground floor there is a buzzy, casual-yet-sparkling bar that provides the ideal setting for a round of oysters and Martinis. The upstairs menu favours "swift" fixes made with lighter spirits. While downstairs, for visitors who wish to linger a little longer, the cosy "speakeasy" has a library of 250 whiskeys.

Swooping into the former site of the groundbreaking Lab Bar, the team behind Swift gave themselves a tough challenge, but they more than pulled it off. "With great twists on classics, Swift offers unparalleled service," says Bertrand Steip.

12 Old Compton Street, London W1. 020 7437 7820. barswift.com

Runner-up: Punch Room
Also nominated: Black Rock/The Devil's Darling, Mint Gun Club, The American Bar

BELVEDERE VODKA

Best Front Of House SANDIA CHANG at Bubbledogs

Born in 2012, Bubbledogs is the brainchild of Sandia Chang (*right*) and her husband, James Knappett. With stints in restaurants such as René Redzepi's Noma in Copenhagen and Thomas Keller's Per Se in New York, Chang has a well-travelled background that enriches her role at Bubbledogs. So much more than the front of house, Chang personally selects the grower champagnes on the menu and is often in the kitchen, too, testing and creating new hot dog recipes. Since opening Bubbledogs six years ago, she has won the adoration of judge Ryan Chetiyawardana who praises her "encyclopaedic knowledge" and "understanding of how important fun is when dealing with world class offerings".

70 Charlotte Street, London W1. 020 7637 7770. bubbledogs.co.uk

Runner-up: David Galetti at Mere
Also nominated: Joe Paulinski at Restaurant Story, Ed Thaw at Ellory, Daniel Crump at The Oxford Blue

GQ's Best Hotel 2018, The Ned, has no fewer than eight restaurants, including Cecconi's (pictured, left) and Millie's (back right)

Best Hotel THE NED

When Nick Jones, founder of the Soho House empire, first saw the disused Midland Bank headquarters, he fell in love. Four years later, Jones has transformed the eleven-storey building into a spectacular landmark, The Ned, a 252-room hotel and members' club spread over eight floors above ground and three below, with eight restaurants, 15 bars, two pools, a spa and a boxing gym. Judge Tara Bernerd applauds The Ned's "initiative to create such warmth and atmosphere in a place of such scale". Original features have been preserved: African malachite art deco pillars, polished walnut walls and jazz age crystal chandeliers, and like the public areas, the plentiful rooms have also been inspired by the era in which the property was built. Decor varies depending on category – "Cosy" rooms have a Twenties influence, for example, while "Medium" ones are more Thirties. Details in the rooms are charming, from the hand-painted china pots on the tea trays, to the retro phones – with Net-A-Porter on speed dial, of course. The Ned has created a benchmark for hotels and there is nowhere else quite like it.

27 Poultry, London EC2. 020 3828 2000. thened.com

Runner-up: Lympstone Manor
Also nominated: Nobu, The Mandrake, Dakota

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EST'D 1815
Ardbeg
AN OA
The Ultimate
ISLAY SINGLE MALT
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drinkaware.co.uk for the facts

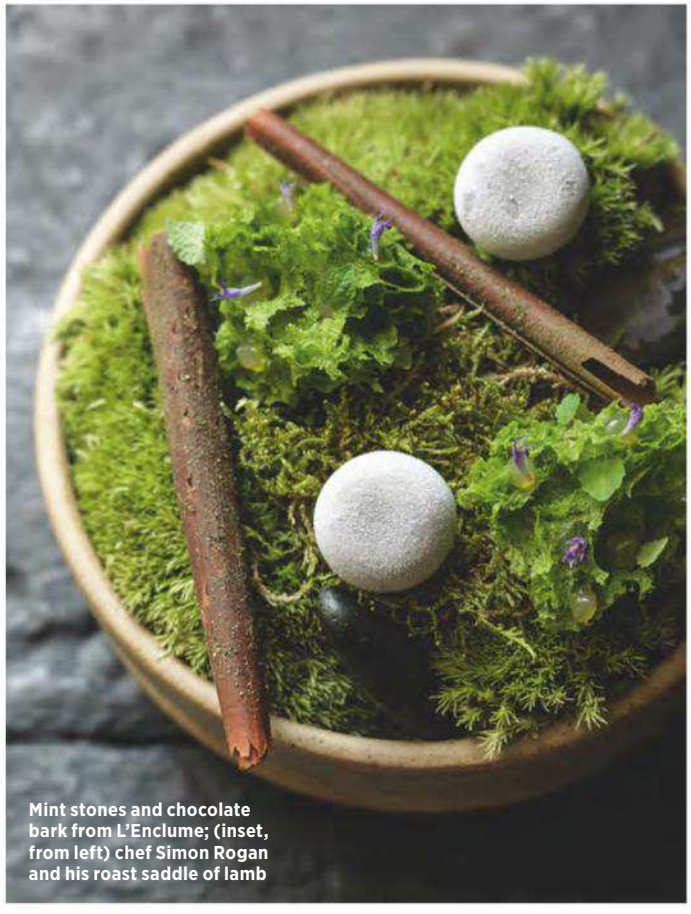
8 Best overall experience L'ENCLUME

Simon Rogan's two Michelin-starred restaurant L'Enclume stays true to both the simple village location and rich surrounding land. Praised by judge Richard Corrigan as a "chef on a mission, always pushing boundaries", Rogan's personality and talent is evident in the refined, inspired dishes. Favouring stripped-back seasonal dining, L'Enclume specialises in growing and foraging produce, with vegetables, herbs, fruits and flowers sourced from its 12-acre farm taking centre stage.

"Rogan is paving the way for sustainable gastronomy," says Bertrand Steip. "His focus on under-used ingredients is reason alone to visit his restaurant." If mindful dining exists, this is it.

Cavendish Street, Grange-Over-Sands, Cumbria LA11 6PZ. 01539 536362. lenclume.co.uk

Runner-up: Carousel
Also nominated: Swingers, The Man Behind The Curtain, The Woodspeen



Mint stones and chocolate bark from L'Enclume; (inset, from left) chef Simon Rogan and his roast saddle of lamb

Clockwise from top left: Hoppers; Trishna; (from left) Karam, Sunaina and Jyotin Sethi; Brigadiers

9 Best Restaurateur KARAM, SUNAINA and JYOTIN SETHI

London's food scene is currently feeling the warmth of a bit of sibling love supplied with vigour by the Sethis. Sunaina, Karam and Jyotin Sethi are at the top of their game, challenging preconceived notions about what an Indian restaurant should be.

In the years since Trishna blazed the trail for contemporary Indian cuisine in 2008, the Sethis have turned their talents to plentiful and varied establishments. From Sri Lankan Hoppers, to an unconventional take on American hotdogs at Bubbledogs, the JKS portfolio covers a lot of ground and the trio have played their part in the diverse London food scene. "Every restaurant is a revelation, each one unique," says Oliver Peyton. Launching this summer, their latest venture, Brigadiers, takes inspiration from the traditional Indian Army mess taverns serving up Indian barbecue. We think it can already be marked down as another Sethi smash hit.

jksrestaurants.com

Runner-up: Zoë and Layo Paskin
Also nominated: Ben Chapman and Brian Hannon of Smoking Goat and Kiln, Jeremy Roberts of Living Ventures, Tom Kerridge

Above: The Fuzzy Duck head chef Ben Tynan; (below) sea bream fillet with brown shrimp and capers

10 Best Pub THE FUZZY DUCK

Nestled in a quiet village between Moreton-In-Marsh and Stratford-Upon-Avon, The Fuzzy Duck has welcomed families, including four-legged friends, since 2013. Formerly The Fox & Goose, the pub was bought by Adrian Slater and Tania Fossey, owners of beauty brand Baylis & Harding, because they wanted to save it for the community. In refurbishing the building and effectively rebranding the pub, they have applied their company ethos of affordable luxury. The result? An elegantly warm retreat offering classic pub food with a sophisticated twist. "The Fuzzy Duck offers honest, flavourful dishes in a beautiful countryside setting," says Richard Corrigan. What more could you ask for?

Ilmington Road, Stratford-Upon-Avon, Warwickshire CV37 8DD. 01608 682635. fuzzyduckarmscote.com

Runner-up: The Hunworth Bell
Also nominated: The Duck Inn, The Oxford Blue, The King's Arms

11 Best Sommelier SONAL CLARE at Purnell's

Set up by Michelin-starred Birmingham chef Glynn Purnell, Purnell's is a chic, contemporary fine-dining restaurant specialising in British gourmet dishes. Sonal Clare's (*left*) passion for the industry developed during childhood, with food and cooking being a huge part of his upbringing. After five years as assistant manager, in 2013 Clare became restaurant manager at Purnell's and his care and attention to detail and vast knowledge of wine is evident. The balanced and well-judged wine list boasts plenty of old-world choices at sensible prices, including a variety of half-bottles. Praised by Ryan Chetiyawardana for his "varied influences and playfulness", Clare is a wonderful representative of everything a sommelier should be.

55 Cornwall Street, Birmingham B3 2DH. purnellsrestaurant.com

Runner-up: Christopher Lecoufle at Les 110 De Taillevent
Also nominated: Patrick Frawley at Restaurant Story, Arnaud Goubet at Belmond Le Manoir Aux Quat'Saisons, Alastair England at Zuma

Veuve Clicquot's new blended champagne, Extra Brut Extra Old

Veuve Clicquot

A perfect pairing

London's dining scene gets some extra sparkle as Veuve Clicquot rips up the rule book with its brilliant new blend, Extra Brut Extra Old

All gastronomic axioms are inviolable until suddenly they're not. Red wine needs to be drunk at room temperature (no, it doesn't). White meat calls for white wine (absolutely not). You shouldn't drink champagne with food, (oh yes, you should).

It often takes a hero product to shift perceptions, such as the Beaujolais Nouveau that arrived in Britain in the Eighties and suddenly had the chattering classes sipping chilled red on a hot summer's day. And so it seems will be the case with champagne-food pairing, which is suddenly all the rage in London's best restaurants thanks in no small part to the arrival of Veuve Clicquot's magnificent new line, Extra Brut Extra Old.

Masterfully blended from six different vintages selected from the Veuve Clicquot wine archives, Extra Brut Extra Old elevates the champagne expression to a new level with its intensity and silkiness. Made with 100 per cent reserve wines, its predominance of Pinot Noir grapes gives it a wonderful purity and adaptability that makes it the perfect complement to all kinds of food.

Of course this will hardly come as a shock to the French, who have always known that champagne pairs beautifully with their cuisine and so it's no surprise to see Extra Brut Extra Old on the menu at Sketch – the evergreen darling of the London circuit, still impossibly hip a decade after opening – where it just sings to be drunk with the Dayboat Dover Sole roasted Meuniere-style. Perhaps more surprising to Brits accustomed to drinking champagne on its own at parties is how brilliantly Extra Brut Extra Old goes with less obvious cuisines such as Peruvian, or the Chinese food served at Michelin-starred KAI, the blend's low-dosage and understated effervescence making it the perfect partner to punchy dishes such as the lamb with Szechuan peppercorn.

Time then to charge your glass. Extra Brut Extra Old has arrived – and the London dining scene is bubbling up with some new magic.

Lima

Extra, special All lively flavours and vibrancy in the mouth, Peruvian cuisine is the perfect match for champagne

Robert Ortiz, head chef at Michelin-starred Lima Fitzrovia, explains why Veuve Clicquot Extra Brut Extra Old goes so well with his food. "The Extra Brut Extra Old is made by mixing very old wines," he says, "which makes it very refreshing and very light, perfect for all the citrus elements we serve at Lima like our traditional Peruvian ceviche, or the melon tiraditos which combines very nicely with champagne. But Extra Brut Extra Old also balances very well with bold flavours such as braised octopus because it has such a beautiful contrast in the mouth."

● To book a special five course paired Veuve Clicquot dinner at Lima Fitzrovia please call +44 20 3002 2640

Winner of 2018's GQ Food & Drink Awards Lifetime Achievement Ruth Rogers in the open kitchen of London's River Cafe, the iconic destination restaurant she opened in 1987 with partner Rose Gray

THE RIVER CAFE COOK BOOK

Rose Gray and Ruth Rogers

River Cafe

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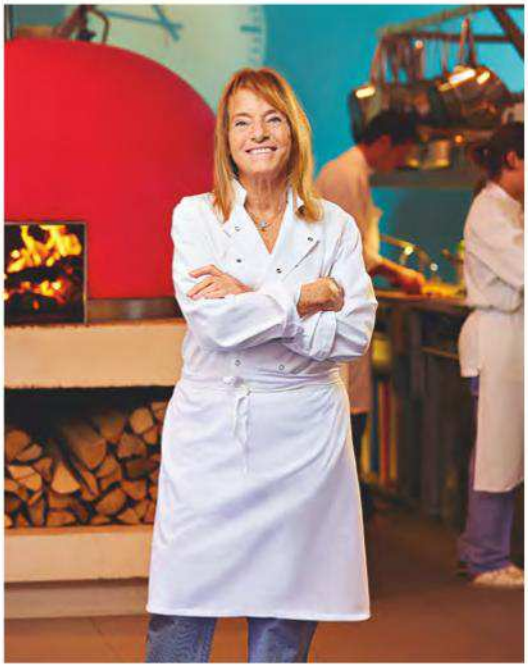

Lifetime Achievement RUTH ROGERS

River Cafe

Last year was the 30th anniversary of the opening by Ruth Rogers with her late business partner, Rose Gray, of one of London's most iconic restaurants. Famously intended as the canteen for Richard Rogers' architectural practice, River Cafe has built its reputation by serving flawlessly simple, seasonal Italian food and the ingredients are still at the centre of everything Rogers does. The tables are filled with a who's who of London's most interesting people and chances are the next Jamie Oliver is in the kitchen right now…

You were one of the first to bring seasonal produce to attention. How did that begin?
In 1987, when we opened the River Cafe, Rose and I wanted to do things in a way that starts with the importance of the ingredient. We had both lived and worked in Italy, where you go to the market, you see what is available and you decide what to cook. We thought why not have a restaurant that works on that basis?

Did you ever think River Cafe would be as popular as it is?
We were always very ambitious, but when you start a business you are just so absorbed in making every day OK. The challenges are coming in and making sure the restaurant looks beautiful, that the food tastes excellent and the people who work here are excited and engaged. I think Rose and I knew we wanted this to be the best restaurant in the world.

What effect did your relationship with Rose have on River Cafe?
We were both passionate about Italy and Italian food and we were quite different in personalities in some ways. We were both brave and curious and we loved each other so much – we even bought the same clothes. But we also respected each other's space. For instance, I would work the night and she would work the day. It was a great friendship.

River Cafe has long held a 50:50 ratio of men to women in the kitchen. Why is this so important?
It's crucial. If it goes below 50:50 I worry. It varies day to day, but we are always monitoring it. I don't think men and women cook differently, but it's very important to have that mix.

How do you maintain such a consistently high level of quality?
I'm in River Cafe every day. We don't take shortcuts, we don't have a freezer, we don't have a microwave and our chefs are trained from the minute they walk in.

What is the biggest change in your cooking over the last 30 years?
We can be more confident with what we cook because people are more excited by food. You can credit the cheap airlines that let you fly to Prague or Sicily for £20 for that. Suddenly, everybody is travelling, eating food and thinking, "Wow, I'd love to eat that."

What is your earliest food memory?
As a child I remember my Hungarian grandmother coming to visit. She was quite a formidable woman and she wouldn't trust my mother's cooking so she would go in the kitchen herself and make apple strudel. But I think the strongest memory I have of food was being in Florence with Richard and having my first bruschetta. The oil was so peppery, I kept looking for the chilli and it was understanding how something like that can just blow you away.

How important is it that River Cafe is just one site?
We could expand, but we are very site-specific. We wouldn't be in the middle of Covent Garden because we need a view and a space where we can expose the kitchen. We found it a few years ago when we almost moved to Mayfair. We could have done both but it didn't work out. And actually, we come in here every day and there is a challenge. Plus, our customers don't want us to have another. It's like a child not wanting a younger brother or sister.

Thames Wharf, Rainville Road, London W6. 020 7386 4200. rivercafe.co.uk

Photograph **Simon Webb**

The bar at Kettner's Townhouse, London; (below) houmous salad at Soho House 40 Greek Street

Soho Farmhouse, Oxfordshire; (below) Nick Jones at Soho House Barcelona

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Veuve Clicquot Innovator Award

SOHO HOUSE GROUP

The original Soho House on London's Greek Street; (below) White City House

Ambitiously growing its presence around the world, Soho House Group can't seem to open new outposts fast enough, and with 18 clubs and more in the works, there's no shortage of choice. But, as diverse and far-reaching as the rapidly expanding empire has become, their mission has remained the same: to provide a home from home for their members.

Founded in London in 1995 as a private members' club for people in the creative industries, Nick Jones opened the first Soho House on London's Greek Street. Since then "Jones has consistently achieved such outstanding results," says judge Tara Bernerd.

"Soho Group have managed to create a global brand out of what was always deemed an unscalable London specificity," says managing director of Moët Hennessy UK, Bertrand Steip. "Each House in the world succeeds in re-creating the laid-back luxury vibe of their first ever house by taking the London touch and giving it a local twist." It's time to get yourself a membership, because the Soho House party won't be ending any time soon. **GQ**

sohohouse.com

Runner-up: Dan Barber at wastED
Also nominated: Untitled, Cook For Syria, Ikoyi

Kettner's Townhouse restaurant and (below) salmon

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

Veuve Clicquot

INTRODUCING

BELVEDERE SINGLE ESTATE RYE VODKAS

ORIGIN BUILDS CHARACTER

What we stand for is simple: vodka with character.

The Belvedere Single Estate Rye Vodkas represent our pursuit to craft vodkas that capture the essence of the single estate ryes and unique locations from which they come.

Both vodkas are made with rare Diamond Dankowskie Rye, yet have distinct flavour profiles due to the influence of their respective single estates. Lake Bartężek is delicate and floral, reminiscent of the serene lake bordering its estate, while the bold and savoury taste of Smogóry Forest recalls the vast woodlands surrounding its estate. Equally exceptional in their own respect, the unique origin of each spirit shines through with every sip.

PLEASE ENJOY BELVEDERE RESPONSIBLY. **drinkaware.co.uk** for the facts

Hat, £25. Suit jacket, £99. Waistcoat, £39.50. Trousers, £49.50. Shirt, £45. Umbrella, £25. All by **M&S Collection**. marksandspencer.com

From left: David wears shirt, £35. Chino shorts,£25. Shoes, £59. Richard wears jacket, £69. Shirt, £35. Tie, £12.50. Trousers, £29.50. Boots, £89. Louis wears hat, £25. Suit jacket, £99. Waistcoat, £19.50. Trousers, £49.50. Shirt, £35. Tie, £15. All by **M&S Collection**. marksandspencer.com

SUN, SEA & SUITS

Whether you need something smart for a sun-drenched wedding or a baking day in the boardroom, Marks & Spencer's new Linen Miracle suit is the ultimate warm weather warrior. Here's why...

If you get the sweats just thinking about wearing a suit in the summer months, we're willing to bet we know why - it's a legacy of what you've worn in the past. That feeling of dread you get when you know you're going to have to wear a suit when the temperature has climbed up to the late twenties is thanks to years of wearing the wrong suit in the wrong situation. And it's not your fault - unless you had a father who sat you down to tell you all about the myriad combinations of materials and lining styles of both jackets and trousers, how were you to know that suiting and sunshine aren't mutually exclusive? So let *GQ* give you a crash course in summer suit perfection. In short, it's all about the materials you choose.

The Ambassador of Tailoring for M&S Menswear, David Gandy, and close friends Louis Dowler and Richard Ampaw showcase tailoring for the summer occasions ahead through the ultimate road trip adventure. Along the way, David, Louis and Richard wear a mix of classic and relaxed tailoring looks from the extensive range.

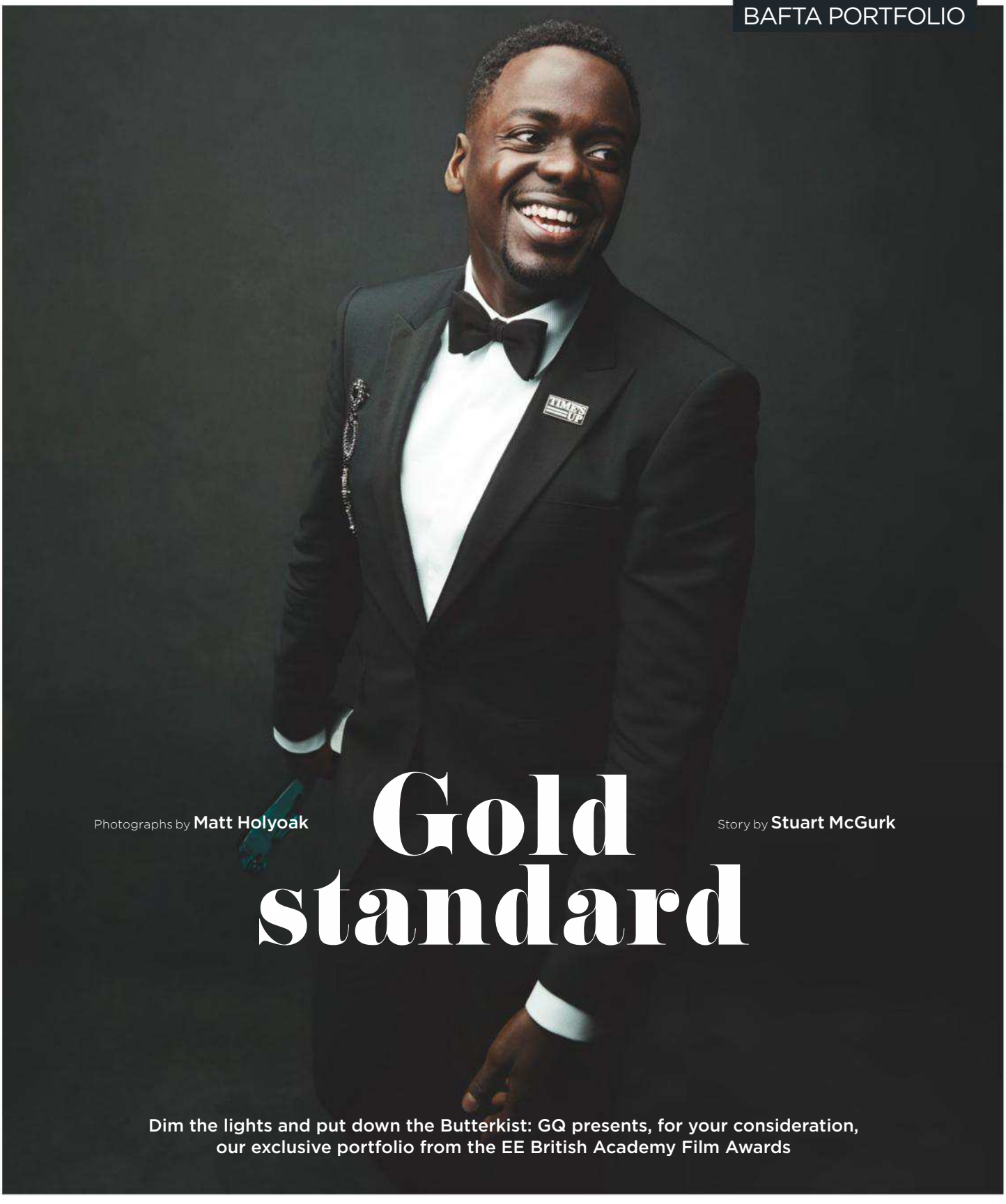
For a great all-rounder, check out the store's new M&S Collection Linen Miracle suits (available in both two- and three-piece variants), which deliver everything a man could need from a summer suit: a light, breathable linen-blend fabric to keep you cool, but one that's also infused with crease-resistant technology to stop that traditional crumpling you might find with a linen suit.

Available in a wide variety of shades, from classic navy to pastel sky blue to sandy beige, you'll also find a wide range of summery accessories to weaponise your new suit for the warm weather: casual knitted ties, gingham shirts, sun hats and even a pair of tailored shorts for braver leg-bearers. So whether you need your tailoring to work for a summer wedding or just another warm day in the office, your suit's got you covered.

THE ACTOR'S ACTOR

Gary Oldman

Lionised by the likes of Tom Hardy, Benedict Cumberbatch, Michael Fassbender, Colin Firth and Ryan Gosling to name only a few, Gary Oldman, until recently, had the unfortunate rep of being the greatest actor never to have won a Bafta or an Academy Award for acting. This year, under half a tonne of latex, he not only finally achieved that at the age of 59 with the improbable role of Winston Churchill in *Darkest Hour*, but also performed an awards-season clean sweep: SAG, Golden Globe, Oscar and, yes, a Bafta. To paraphrase Churchill: never in the field of acting awards was so much owed by so many... to Gary Oldman.



Photographs by **Matt Holyoak**

Gold standard

Story by **Stuart McGurk**

Dim the lights and put down the Butterkist: GQ presents, for your consideration, our exclusive portfolio from the EE British Academy Film Awards

THE NEXT BIG THING

Daniel Kaluuya

Sometimes, being a "rising star" can be a blessing in disguise – you spend forever rising without ever getting there – but for 29-year-old Daniel Kaluuya it came at the same time. He won the EE Rising Star Award while simultaneously being nominated for Best Leading Actor, both for his role in *Get Out*, and followed that up with *Black Panther*, the Marvel blockbuster that earned more than $1 billion in less than a month. Next up: a lead role in Steve "*12 Years A Slave*" McQueen's latest, *Widows*. Spoiler: he's risen.

THE CAMPAIGNERS

Frances McDormand & Sam Rockwell

Inclusion rider: a phrase meaningless to most people before Frances McDormand mentioned it in her Oscar acceptance speech, one that trended on Twitter right afterwards and was then put into action by stars such as Michael B Jordan, Matt Damon and Ben Affleck just days later. That, folks, is how change happens. The Oscar- and Bafta-winning star of *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri* – here with costar Sam Rockwell – explained afterwards that it's a clause actors can demand to be added to their contracts to ensure diversity in both gender and race on any given set. Truly, a case of putting your mouth where your Oscar is.

THE SELF-STARTER

Lupita Nyong'o

Lupita Nyong'o can hardly be accused of not making her own luck. She started her career not as an actress, but as a lowly production assistant on films such as *The Constant Gardener*, which was how she met Ralph Fiennes, who inspired her to be an actor. She then wrote and directed her own documentary series, *In My Genes*, before enrolling in the Yale School Of Drama, and, after graduating, landed her first role from her first audition – *12 Years A Slave*, for which she won the Oscar for Best Supporting Actress. That, in turn, led to a small franchise called *Star Wars* (starring as CGI character Maz Kanata) and *Black Panther*. Hashtag blessed.

THE LATE BLOOMER

Allison Janney

For years, every member of the supremely talented cast of TV's *The West Wing* would, when asked, pick out one cast member they admired above all the others: it wasn't "President" Martin Sheen, but Allison Janney, who played White House Press Secretary CJ Cregg. With her standout turn as the working-class hothouse mother of figure skater Tonya Harding in *I, Tonya* – winning her very first Oscar, Bafta and Golden Globe – it's fair to say the rest of the world knows just how good she is now too.

THE OUTSIDERS

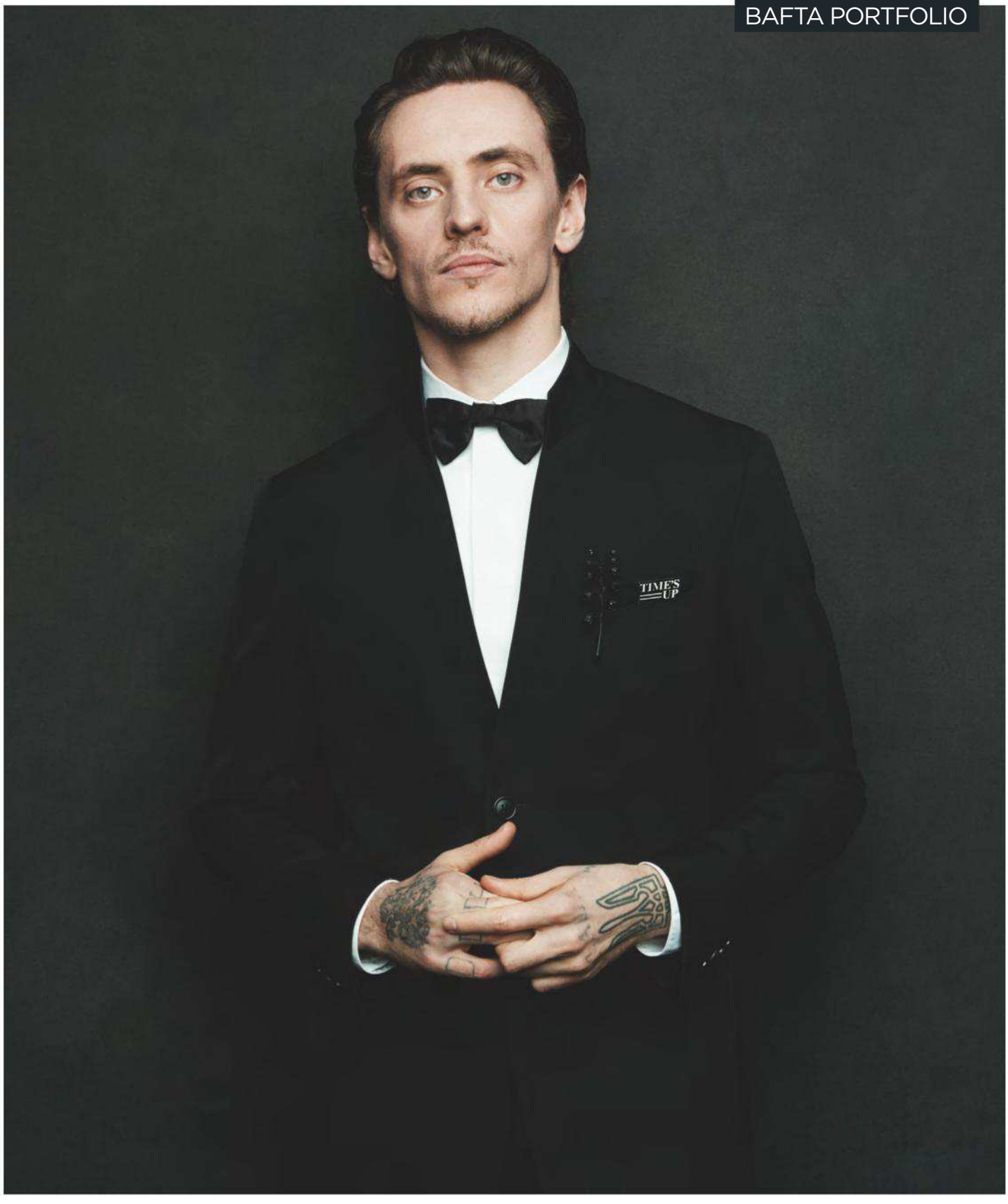
Rachel Weisz & Nicholas Hoult

The social ripple effect from the Harvey Weinstein allegations have reached far and wide, but less known are the practical industry ones. *The Current War*, starring Benedict Cumberbatch and Nicholas Hoult as rival inventors Thomas Edison and Nikola Tesla, should have seen Hoult competing for this year's Baftas, but it's one of many Weinstein productions put on ice and is now expected later this year. Not that Hoult, as you'll see from our shot of him with Rachel Weisz (who presented for Best Original Screenplay) let that stop him having a good time. To paraphrase *Braveheart*: Weinstein may take their release dates, but he'll never take their afterparties.

THE HISTORY GIRLS

Gemma Arterton & Lily James

On the night of the Baftas, many of the female stars took to the red carpet with activists and advocates they admired, which was particularly apt for Gemma Arterton, who went with women whose story she recently portrayed on stage in *Made In Dagenham* – former Ford factory workers Eileen Pullen and Gwen Davis, who, in June 1968, staged a walkout over receiving less pay than their male counterparts: the Time's Up women before Time's Up. Lily James, meanwhile, is also harking back to the past, as she follows her turn as Churchill's secretary in *Darkest Hour* by playing a young writer in occupied Guernsey in Second World War drama *The Guernsey Literary And Potato Peel Pie Society*, which makes up for in drama what its title lacks in brevity.



THE DANCE PARTNER

Sergei Polunin

You may know him as "The Bad Boy Of Ballet", or perhaps "Ballet's Bad Boy", or even "Ballet's Superstar Gone Rogue". Whichever way you spin it, for 28-year-old former Bolshoi ballerina and *GQ* Men Of The Year winner Sergei Polunin, it essentially means two things: he used to take various substances that aren't recommended for a ballet performance and he ended up quitting the ballet stage for the screen – hence starring not just in Sir Kenneth Branagh's *Murder On The Orient Express* last year, but also a turn in this year's *Red Sparrow* as Jennifer Lawrence's dance partner. If Carlsberg did career changes...

THE CHANGE AGENTS

Letitia Wright & Anya Taylor-Joy

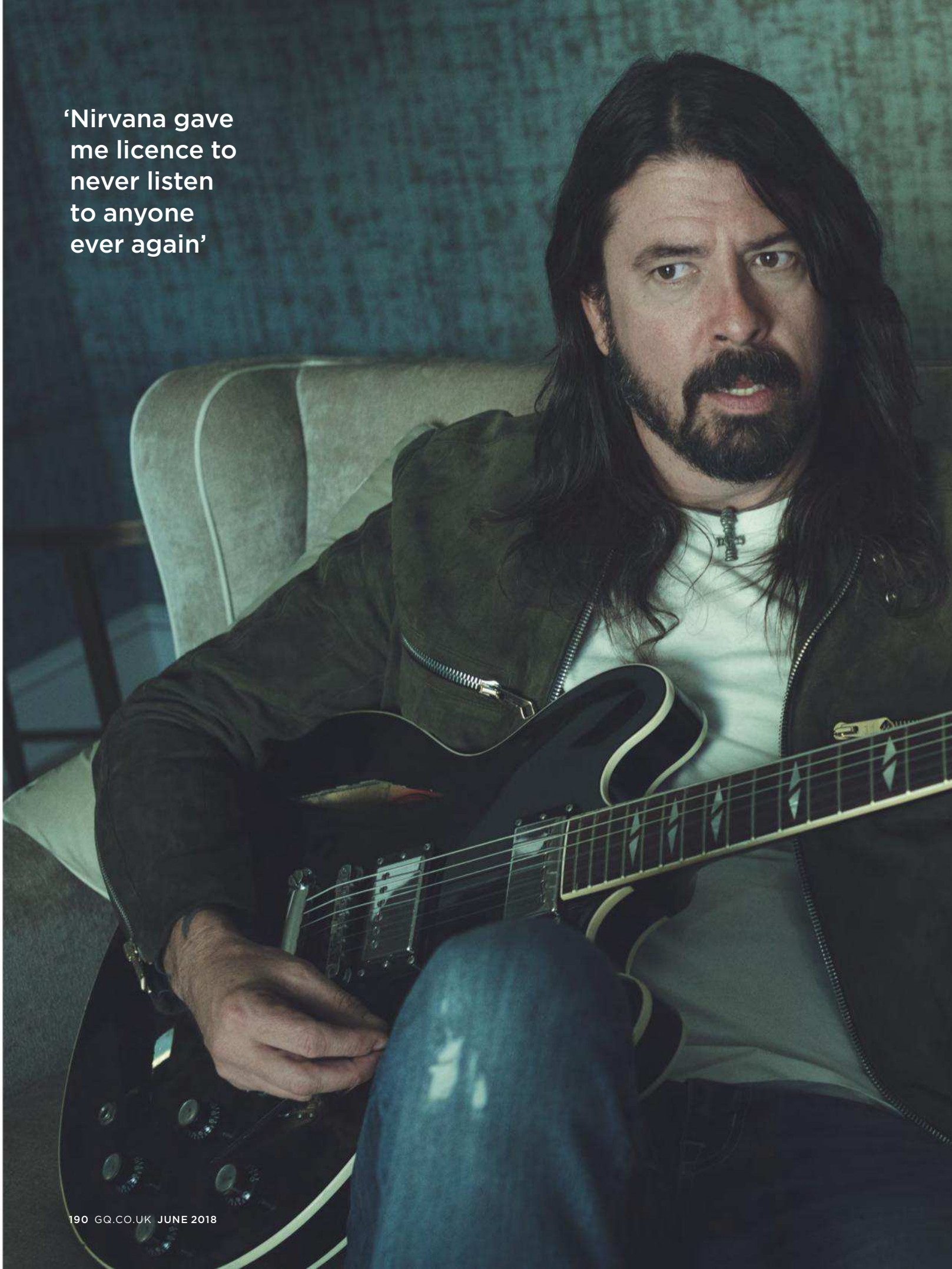
In their own ways, rising stars Letitia Wright, 24, and Anya Taylor-Joy, 22, are representative of film industry revelations. For Wright, born in Guyana but who then moved to London aged seven, it came by starring in the most successful standalone Marvel movie of all time (*Black Panther*), when the prevailing logic had always been that an audience would stay away from a film with a predominantly black cast. For Taylor-Joy, born in Miami, raised in Argentina, and who moved to London aged six, it was something even more remarkable: starring in an M Night Shyamalan film (*Split*, which also starred James McAvoy) that was actually good. Miracles do happen.

Photography assistants **Ben Colson; Liam Prior; Vanessa Sowerby**
Make-up **Fortunato Benavoli using Lancôme**

THE STREAM DREAMERS

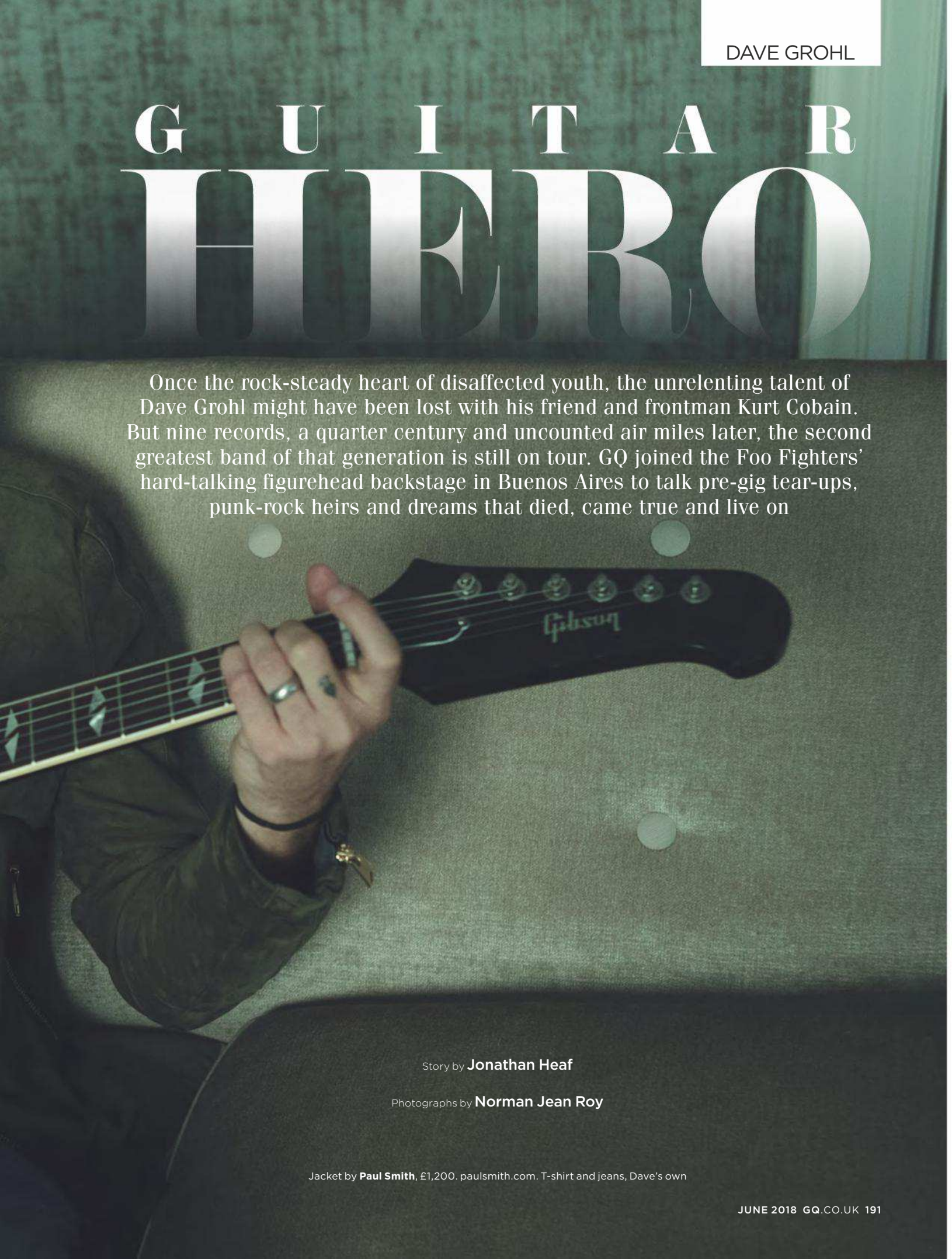
Gugu Mbatha-Raw & Orlando Bloom

It says everything about the new rules of the film industry that Gugu Mbatha-Raw – whose breakout moment came in the much-lauded "San Junipero" episode of *Black Mirror*'s third series – didn't know that the sci-fi film in which she starred (*The Cloverfield Paradox*) was going to be released on Netflix on the night of the Super Bowl (4 February) until that morning, and, until that point, wasn't aware it was going to be on Netflix at all. It was probably fitting then that Mbatha-Raw, alongside Orlando Bloom, presented to one of the industry's elder statesmen: one James Ivory, who won his first Bafta in 1987 for *A Room With A View* and won again this year, aged 89, for his screenplay for coming-of-age drama *Call Me By Your Name*. GQ


‘Nirvana gave
me licence to
never listen
to anyone
ever again’

GUITAR HERO

Once the rock-steady heart of disaffected youth, the unrelenting talent of Dave Grohl might have been lost with his friend and frontman Kurt Cobain. But nine records, a quarter century and uncounted air miles later, the second greatest band of that generation is still on tour. GQ joined the Foo Fighters' hard-talking figurehead backstage in Buenos Aires to talk pre-gig tear-ups, punk-rock heirs and dreams that died, came true and live on



Story by **Jonathan Heaf**

Photographs by **Norman Jean Roy**

Jacket by **Paul Smith**, £1,200. paulsmith.com. T-shirt and jeans, Dave's own

Foo Fighters photographed for British GQ at the José Amalfitani Stadium, Buenos Aires, 7 March 2018

‘For my daughter, Lil Pump is punk rock. Music shouldn’t sound like it did when I was 14’

‘These are my last rites.’

Not song lyrics, you understand, but the final words Dave Grohl says to me in the Foo Fighters’ dressing room before he walks out to give his three-hour sermon for the rippling, 50,000-headed hydra at the José Amalfitani Stadium in the Liniers neighbourhood of Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Unlike other rock stars old enough to know better – Grohl is now an utterly disreputable 49 years old – backstage there’s no stretching out, no gargling with cider vinegar or sipping Pepto-Bismol, no downward dog or warrior two, nor any cold-pressed acai shakes to be taken prior to “house lights out”, that split second of total darkness that signals to the crowd the moment has come to “totally lose their shit”, as Grohl puts it so eloquently.

“We ain’t Maroon 5!” he chuckles in mock horror when I wonder how grand the band’s rider has grown since going from punk-rock poverty to selling more than 30 million albums and playing at the White House (twice) for President Obama.

Instead, the frontman’s strict pre-performance prep, those “last rites”, consists of a can of Budweiser no sooner than an hour before stage time, then up till the moment he goes on he’ll shoot consistently staggered shots (I counted five and partook in three) of Jägermeister, coined “RockQuil” by Grohl. Although there are other, faster, substances floating about this evening, Grohl himself admits to me that he has “never once taken cocaine, heroin or speed. Sure, a little weed every now and again. But can you imagine me on amphetamines? I never shut up as it is.”

Next, he’ll suck up one last Parliament Light, take two lasts swigs of beer, followed by three tablets of nicotine gum before Gus Brant, the Foos’ long-standing, ever-stoic tour manager, pokes his head from the other side of the black curtain that separates the band from the rest of the labyrinthine backstage city and informs Grohl and the rest of one of the biggest, hardest-working, not to mention highest-earning rock bands on the planet (Grohl alone is worth more than £200 million), “Five minutes, guys. You *ready*?”

Ready? Grohl is on a permanent countdown to launch. He is, was and always will be in PSR – a positive state of readiness. The atmosphere in the Foos’ dressing room since we arrived at the venue around two hours ago – running red lights from their hotel, the Four Seasons, in a convoy of nine blacked-out Mercedes-Benz Vito Tourer people carriers with 12 accompanying police bikes >>

>> and two squad cars, sirens screaming and lights flashing – has been akin to a house party just before the cops shut it down, always about one round or one hit shy of someone getting hurt.

Tonight, Grohl's conversation unspools and tangles like one of those TDK cassette tapes your father used to record old songs off the radio. Topics include why the cast of *Big Little Lies* reminds him of "all the weird parents from my kid's school back home in Los Angeles", whether or not I think he looks like a golden retriever (actually yes, he does, although there are echoes of an English springer spaniel about him too, especially the ears), plus a lengthy anecdote about him wandering around Reykjavik drinking something called Black Death (Brennivín, it turns out, is an unsweetened schnapps made from mashed potato), which made him "not woozy drunk but turn-the-tables-of-the-world-over drunk".

Grohl's freewheeling enthusiasm for life, that whole charming raconteur shtick, is for real. One can't help but feel, however, that calling him "the nicest man in rock" – as almost every journalist has, since forgiving him for daring to make any music after Nirvana – is utterly disingenuous. He's way smarter than that. Anyway, since when was calling someone "nice" considered a compliment? Aren't school children always told "nice" is the laziest adjective they can possibly use to describe someone? If you need one word to describe Grohl, it should be the absolute antonym of "lazy".

I'd witnessed Grohl in all his high-speed spit-balling, beer-bombing, cigarette-hoovering glory only a week prior to our time in Argentina, backstage at the Brit Awards, where the band picked up yet another gong to throw in their backyard trophy landfill, a landfill that must now – having started the Foos nearly 25 years ago, after the death of Kurt Cobain in April 1994 – be a metal mountain of twisted accolades the size of Texas, eight Grammys included.

Topics broached in London were: Nirvana's last trip to South America in 1993, where, while drumming, Grohl bit down so hard on his tongue it looked like "a freshly sliced slab of rare sirloin" for days afterwards and how on the very same trip he, Cobain and bass player Krist Novoselic went to "the most expensive steak joint we could find just to spend the record company's money". Cobain, a vegetarian, was a little horrified at the way his bandmates could choose which cow their meal came from with the help of colour photographs.

Grohl also spoke of how he once used his time on a long-haul flight to try to learn Dutch, with the help of an audio programme he found at the dusty end of the in-flight entertainment system. On another flight there was also a close encounter with Cate Blanchett (he's spent a lot of time airborne one way or the other these past three decades) and gazing at her ethereal beauty felt like putting his head in the mouth of a unicorn, a sensation quickly spoilt, however, when he spotted the actress later on with a Korean face sheet applied, thus resembling "Anthony Hopkins from *The Silence Of The Lambs*. But, you know, still really pretty."

Back in Buenos Aires and Grohl is fidgeting, grinning and, yes, still talking, just to the side of the vast stage. He's with his band – Taylor Hawkins (drums), Pat Smear (lead rhythm guitar), Nate Mendel (bass guitar), Chris Shiflett (lead guitar) and Rami Jaffee (organ and keyboards) – and has changed from black jeans, black Old Skool Vans and dark denim shirt into black jeans, black Old Skool Vans and black T-shirt. His brown hair is shoulder-length and tangled. It's grown-up rock hair. Like Grohl's late hero, Lemmy. Or Kirk Hammett, lead guitarist from Metallica. Or Slash. It's hair to shred to. The rock purist's idea of what a haircut should look like on stage. (Essentially, not a haircut at all.)

'Can you imagine me on amphetamines? I never shut up as it is'

As the house lights cut out and the stadium goes black, Grohl, with his Gibson DG-335 electric guitar (in Pelham blue) slung over his shoulder, runs – from a standstill to a full sprint like a US Marine getting off a hovering chopper in enemy territory – into the crowd's wall of noise. As I catch sight of the faces melting with euphoria, I'm reminded of yet another story Grohl told the day before, something about a dream he had when was he was a 12-year-old punk-rock kid playing chords out of a Beatles songbook in his room in Virginia, Washington.

"You know, I get very lucid dreams, have done my entire life," Grohl recalled. "When I was a eleven or 12, I fell for this new girl in my school, Sandy Moran. She was, you know, ridiculously hot, as all new girls inevitably are. She had blonde hair, ice-blue eyes, the full ticket. I was in love with her. Eventually, we got it together. I asked her out, she said yes and we were going steady. It was for, like, four days or something – ridiculous. Anyway, three or four days later she broke up with me and the very same night I had this dream. I was in an arena full of people and I'm at the front, shredding some guitar lead. The audience is going totally nuts, loving it. Then, at the front, I look down and there she is, Sandy, right in the front row. And you know what? She's crying her eyes out. Bawling. Like a baby. She looks up to me and mouths, 'Dave, why did I break up with you?'" Grohl has told this story a few times. Why not? It's pretty funny. Yet, as ever with him, there's always more to tell.

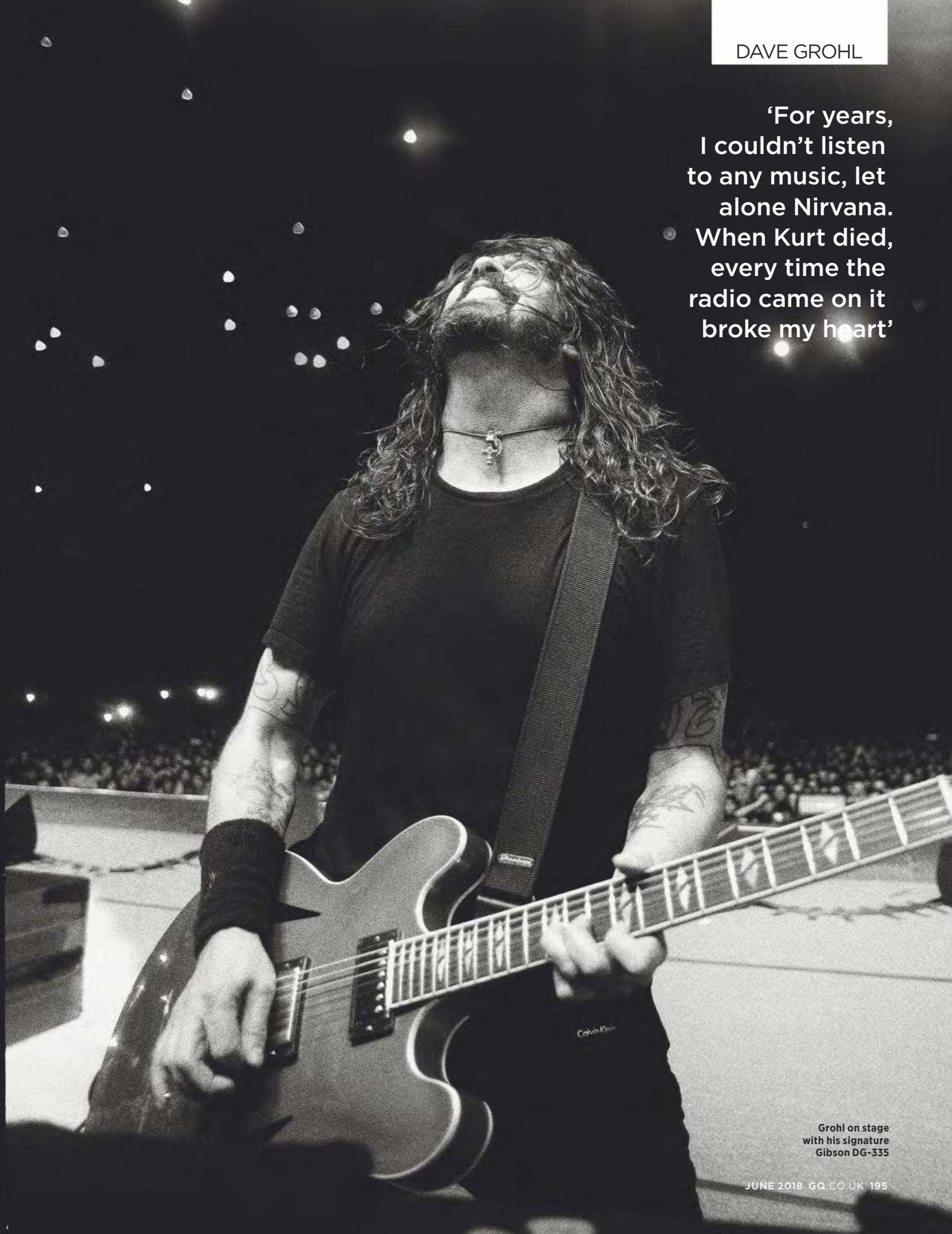
"The funny thing is that *actually* happened. We played a show in Washington, DC a couple of years back. It was like a school reunion, about 400 of my old pals were there on the guest list. I hear from someone that Sandy wants to come down… Sure as hell, one hour 30 minutes later I am on stage in my home town, same as the dream I had 35 years ago, I'm ripping a guitar lead and I look out into the crowd and there she is: front row. Sandy *fucking* Moran. She's not crying this time, though. She's just looking at me, shaking her head, like, 'You *asshole*.'"

It's two nights prior to the stadium show and I am sitting next to Grohl in a restaurant called Fervor, which translates, suitably enough, as "fervour" or "enthusiasm" in Spanish. Sharing the table are various members of the Foos' touring caravan, management, security, plus the support band for the South American leg of the tour, Queens Of The Stone Age, including lead singer Josh Homme, who is at once both incredibly friendly and also incredibly intimidating.

Grohl has ordered the "skirt steak", which he's guessing are short ribs. When Grohl isn't touring and making music he likes to barbecue. He takes it very seriously. "I have spent far too long lost down a YouTube wormhole, watching videos on how to make the best spice rub for the perfect brisket. When I get back to LA I'm taking a butchery course."

He's into the tech of it all too. "There's this one grill that I'm after," he says with the sort of longing rich rock stars usually reserve for Basquiat prints or Patek Philippes. "Man, what a grill. I kept dropping hints before Christmas to my wife. I wasn't being very subtle about it either. I go down on Christmas morning and she hands me this envelope. In my head, I'm like, 'These must be the keys to the grill, right?'

"Anyway, I open up the envelope and it's an order form. You know, like the payment confirmations you get if you buy something on Amazon. You know what it was for? A toilet. One of those Japanese toilets that surprise you with a jet of water up your ass every so often. I'm like, 'You gotta be kidding me?' So I just went online and bought the damn grill myself. Merry Christmas to me." >>



‘For years, I couldn’t listen to any music, let alone Nirvana. When Kurt died, every time the radio came on it broke my heart’

Grohl on stage with his signature Gibson DG-335

>> Japanese "smart" washlets, state-of-the-art barbecue tech, a sprawling home, recording studios in two different places in the *same* city, a beach house in Hawaii, more than 30m Foo Fighters albums and more than 75m Nirvana albums sold – doesn't sound particularly punk rock does it? Is there, within Grohl, some kind of conflict – a skirmish between the musician who's worked his ass off since he was 16 and now wants a chrome grill the size of a Cadillac to home cook his own brochette on and the hyperactive drummer boy whose ferocious playing and independent will kicked this whole journey off to begin with?

"It depends how you define punk rock," says Grohl. "You know who Lil Pump is?" he asks. Actually I do, I say, somewhat proudly. He's the so-called "Soundcloud rap star" who overdosed on Xanax and coke late last year. "No. That was Lil Peep. Lil Pump is from the same genre, that slow-cooked emo hip hop thing. Anyway, he has a song called 'Gucci Gang'. It's hilarious, the video has tigers and bags of weed and blue Lamborghinis in it. Yet for my eldest daughter, Lil Pump *is* punk rock. In 2018, music doesn't – and shouldn't – sound like it did when I was 14. I guess for me punk rock is about a state of independence and if that's Lil Pump then so be it. It's about being free to do whatever the hell you want to do."

You know, I say casually, that sort of ideological rhetoric would go down well with young voters were he to stand for office. "Taylor and I talked about this the other day. He said, 'You need to be president and run for office.' Fuck that. And that's my quote, right there. I'm not doing an Oprah. I'm not going to go, 'Well, you never know.'"

For someone who has gone around the world as much as him, has Grohl... "Felt the impact of Donald Trump in regards to what other countries feel about Americans?" he interjects. "Of course. I remember when we were touring in the Nineties, people would come up to me and still spoke of wanting to come to the US, to see Texas and see the desert, to walk around the Big Apple. The American Dream was still tangible, still desirable. Today, the American Dream is broken. I've probably travelled internationally more than our current president and the one thing I understand that he doesn't is that the world isn't as big as you think it is. It is all in your neighbourhood. India, Asia, Iceland aren't other solar systems. I am ashamed of our president. I feel apologetic for it when I travel.

"Listen, who cares what I think about guns or religion, but the thing about Trump that stings the most is this: he just seems like a massive jerk. Right? I know a lot of wonderful people who don't share my politics and you can bet tomorrow night in the stadium not everyone will share the same opinion or hold the same views. But when I sing 'My Hero' they will all sing it with me. In the three hours that I am on stage, none of that matters."

During the course of my week with Grohl, when I ask those who have known him for years, such as Josh Homme, what it is that makes the frontman so full of energy, so full of that optimistic zeal – what translates as "nice" for so many observers – they have conspiratorially whispered, "Well, you know, there is a darkness there in Dave." A difficult relationship with his father, for example, has come up on more than one occasion as a potential reason for Dave being so, well, Dave.

"My parents divorced when I was young," Grohl tells me the next day, sitting in his hotel suite. "He bailed when I was six. I guess things weren't working out so well at home. He went to do his thing in DC and I lived with my mother in Virginia."

Jim Grohl died in August 2014. He was a journalist, starting out as a reporter in Michigan for the *Niles Daily Times* and going on to work at the *Painesville Telegraph,* before serving in the army in the Sixties. He ended up working as a Republican speechwriter on Capitol Hill and was also a keen flautist.

'The thing about Trump that stings is that he just seems like a massive jerk'

"You can imagine we had our differences," laughs Grohl. "He was on Capitol Hill while his son was sitting in his bedroom, using a pillow as a snare drum and listening to satanic death metal. At one point he took me out of our community school and sent me to a Catholic school to try to iron out the kinks. We weren't religious. It bewildered me, angered me at the time."

Jim Grohl's lectures were memorable. "They were *epic*. I mean a Republican speechwriter, can you imagine the dressing downs? He used to get the whole family to do articulation drills. We were given a subject and then you had to talk about a specific thing – a chair, the capital of Spain, whatever – for four minutes without any broken speech. No 'ums' or 'buts', without hesitation. It was a valuable lesson. It made me think in measured tones. If you hadn't noticed, I have no problem getting up in front of 150,000 people and talking to them. I am never at a loss for words."

Everyone, however, has a tipping point. One night Grohl, aged 16, reached his. "I was in a punk-rock band called Mission Impossible – terrible name – a band I wasn't supposed to be in because my grades were so poor. Of course, I still did it. The punk-rock scene in Washington, DC at that time was proudly DIY. You'd book the hall yourself, book the PA, pay for security, then you'd make the flyer yourself and pray people turned up."

So that is precisely what an already ambitious Grohl did. "We booked the Bethesda Community Centre, designed the invite and invited all our friends. Two days before, however, my mother is going out of town and my dad calls, leaves an answering machine message: 'David. Let's go for dinner Friday night. Call me back.' But our gig was Friday night, so I just don't call back. Instead, I did the show. It was this huge triumph. I made, like, $200 – I felt like Warren *fucking* Buffett. It felt like a milestone achievement in my life. I was so proud."

Grohl's father was less enthused. The following day, he collared his hungover son, dragged him back to his house and forced him to study all day. "Then it came, the 'What are you going to do with your life?' talk. Then he asked me, again rhetorically, if I had considered going into the army."

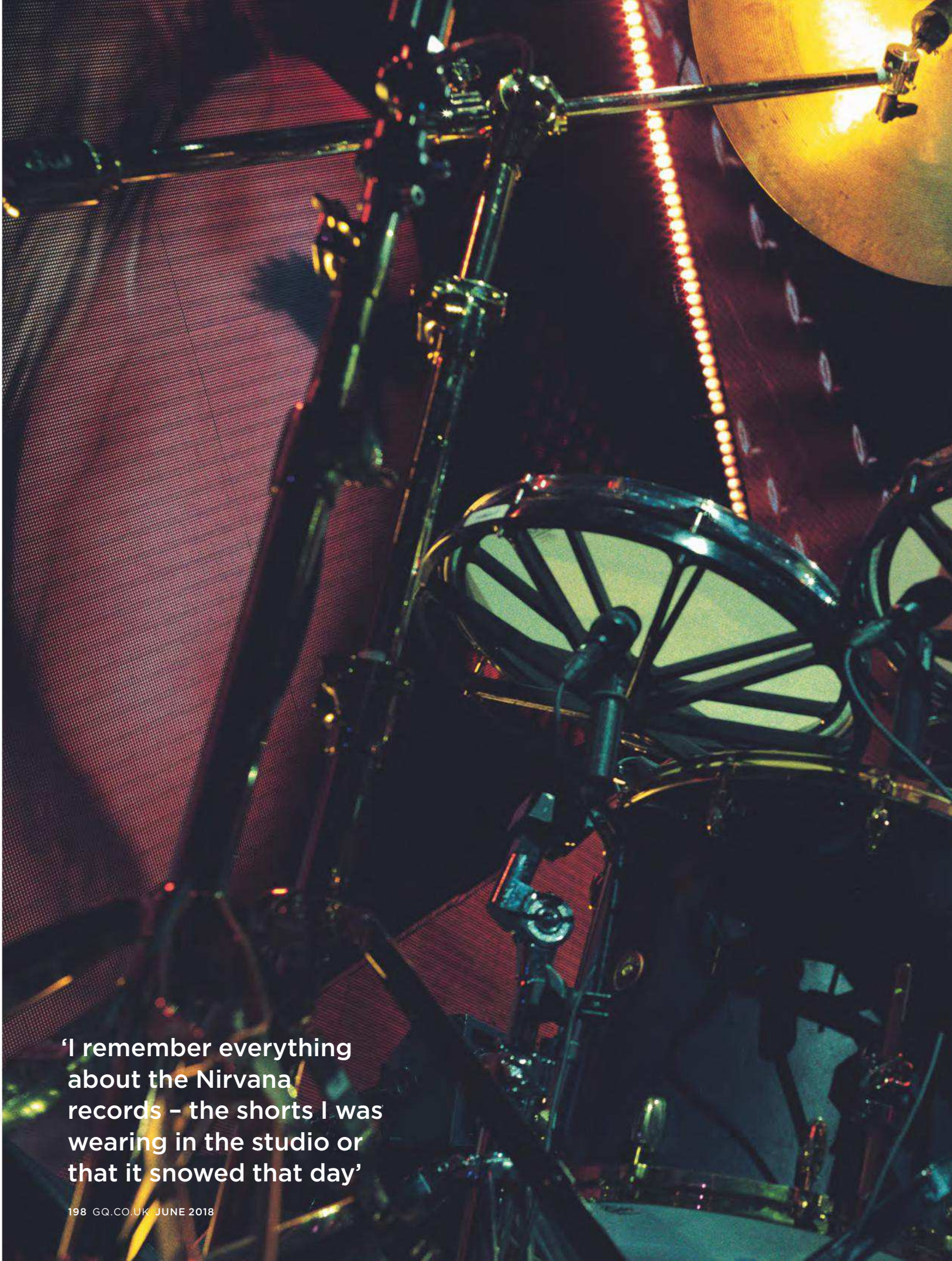
Grohl snapped. "You know what I did? I ran away. That very night. Before I left I wrote a big, long letter: 'Coming to stay with you,' I wrote, 'shouldn't feel like a punishment. That's not the way it should be. And you know what I did last night...' And I laid it all out. The band, the gig, what that moment meant to me. 'So you know what, *Dad*?' I wrote. 'Fuck. You.' And that was it, the moment I poured gasoline over this whole thing."

Where did Grohl run to? He laughs and the atmosphere lightens. "To the payphone across the street. I rang my sister and was like, 'Please come and pick me up!'" Did Grohl's father eventually understand? "He said, 'Don't ever do that again.' But he got it. Although it's funny, he never entirely conceded defeat. When I joined Nirvana and we were getting really, *really* stupidly popular, I had another one of those talks. He was like, 'David, you know this isn't going to last, don't you?' I replied, 'Of course not, Dad! Why would it?'"

Whatever anyone has written about the cultural impact of grunge and how much the music changed things, "Nirvana, for me, was a personal revolution," says Grohl. "I was 21. You remember being 21? You think you know it all. But you don't. I thought I knew everything. And being in Nirvana showed me how little I really knew. They were some of the greatest highs of my life, but also, of course, one of the biggest lows. Those experiences became a footing or a foundation on how to survive." >>

‘My dad was a Republican speechwriter. Imagine the dressing downs…’

Grohl’s pre-gig ‘RockQuil’ (aka Jägermeister); (above) 50,000 fans watched the Foos at the José Amalfitani Stadium



‘I remember everything about the Nirvana records – the shorts I was wearing in the studio or that it snowed that day’

Nirvana drummer Grohl reclaims the instrument on stage in Buenos Aires

>> It's difficult to talk to Grohl about Nirvana. After all, both he and I are all too aware that for years after Cobain's suicide, in April 1994, it's all anyone ever wanted to talk to him about. "Every question, at every press conference," he admits. But still, the tragedy, even after all these years is tender. "For years I couldn't even listen to *any* music, let alone a Nirvana song," explains Grohl to me earnestly. "When Kurt died, every time the radio came on, it broke my heart."

Even today, listening to Cobain's music, for Grohl, is almost impossible. "I don't put Nirvana records on, no. Although they are always on somewhere. I get in the car, they're on. I go into a shop, they're on. For me, it's so personal. I remember *everything* about those records; I remember the shorts I was wearing when we recorded them or that it snowed that day. Still, I go back and find new meanings to Kurt's lyrics. Not to seem revisionist, but there are times when it hits me. You go, 'Wow, I didn't realise he was feeling that way at the time.'"

One person who can shed some light on that portion of Grohl's life, on the relationship he had with Cobain and on what actually happened in one of the most celebrated, most adored, yet most dysfunctional bands of all time is Courtney Love, Cobain's wife and mother to his daughter, Frances Bean.

"I liked Dave very much," Love explains. "He was a boundless bundle of energy, not only a great talent but great fun. He cut a swath through the women of the northwest, which I found amusing; he didn't care if they were educated lefty feminists. Kurt compared his energy to a puppy. Dave made Kurt very happy. He was always fast with a joke that could pull Kurt out of a funk, with junk food and girl talk."

Rumours have been circulating for years that Grohl quit the band just before Cobain's suicide. It's true Cobain became more isolated due to drugs, the unwanted glare of fame and various legal woes. Although their relationship is now civil, what is also true is that Grohl and Love haven't always seen eye to eye since Nirvana disbanded and the pair became embroiled in a long legal fight, costing both sides a serious amount of money, all over the ownership and control of the band's back catalogue and finances.

"[Nirvana] started to dissipate with the whole 'Kurt and Courtney' post-*Vanity Fair* phenomenon, which really affected me, Kurt and Frances," Love continues. In 1992, the writer Lynn Hirschberg wrote a blistering exposé on a then-pregnant Love and Cobain, with sources calling the pair "the new Sid and Nancy". The aftermath was incredibly painful for Love. "Kurt became more reclusive [after] and didn't rehearse as much and talked about ending the band, which was just Kurt being reactive. Dave split for a while to skate with his old DC friends in LA and the Valley because me and Kurt's life turned into a clusterfuck of scary lawyers, doctors for his stomach, some drugs. We weren't watching Nirvana or Hole's [Love's band at the time] fates. We had to save our kid.

"I think Dave was sensitive to that and just took a break. Dave and Krist knew the inner workings of Kurt and never pointed fingers at me, which I am grateful for. We got into bizarre litigation and an apex of treacherous, predator attorneys, but that was over money and the way suicide affects family, which we are. I regret the acrimony [between myself and Dave] deeply. I feel like I missed out on some great years with him."

Something that Grohl and I do talk about is the misinterpretation that his time in Nirvana was all just sorrow and wretchedness. "We weren't miserable *all* the time," he says, laughing. "I mean, Kurt never once came off stage and said, 'Nice show,' which was a little weird. Everyone needs a pep talk every once in a while, right?"

'Dave knew the inner workings of Kurt and never pointed fingers at me'

Courtney Love

Love echoes the sentiment that Nirvana did want to make it, including Kurt. "There's this myth," she explains candidly, "that Kurt didn't want success. That is such bullshit. He worked his ass off to form the right band. Kurt loved that they had made it and moved [Michael] Jackson off the charts, but he never really got to enjoy it because the circus came to town to take our kid.

"I don't think the band had a discord about success," she continues. "Dave was welcoming of it, as was Kurt. Success is a nice warm bath of love from the outside world, but also one hell of a harsh teacher."

Dave Grohl has a secret project. "Whatever you do, don't call it a solo record," he warns. OK, so it's not a solo record. Well, no more than the first Foo Fighters album, for which Grohl, less than a year after Cobain's death, walked into a recording studio in Seattle and laid down (almost) every single note of music that would make up that eponymous debut. "I called it Foo Fighters, plural, as I wanted it to sound like I was in a band, rather than just me and a bunch of instruments."

This new project is similar to the first, just with a lot more ambition. At the desk of his hotel suite, looking out over the passage of water that goes all the way to Uruguay, is a small keyboard, a guitar, two small speakers and a laptop that Grohl assures me has, "Pro Tools and all that cool shit I need at 5am when I can't sleep and I need to write." Grohl's new idea is one that came to him, just like all his other projects have – such as the Foos' 2014 *Sonic Highways* album, which involved recording eight different songs in eight different American cities, all filmed for a Netflix series – in a flash of "Why not?"

The project will involve a 25-minute piece of continuous music, an instrumental. "I have a studio, EastWest in LA, where I'm going to set up an expanse of instruments," says Grohl. "Several drum kits, a load of guitars, bass, rhythm and lead. I'll hit play and the clock will start ticking. I will record the first drum part, then I will run to the next drum set and play another drum part that will record over the first. Then I will do the same with all the guitars, all assigned to a different moment in the instrumental."

A grin emerges out from under Grohl's black beard, a beard streaked with bolts of silver. "The best bit is we'll film everything with multiple cameras. So by the end of it you will see and hear one song being played for 25 minutes, with six different Dave Grohls playing every note, on every single instrument, all the way through in one take."

That sounds ridiculous. "I know! The worst part is, and that's why I've had about four hours' sleep every night on this tour, I have to write and then memorise all the music for this thing, for all the instruments, before I get back to LA in two weeks." OK, but I still have one question: why?

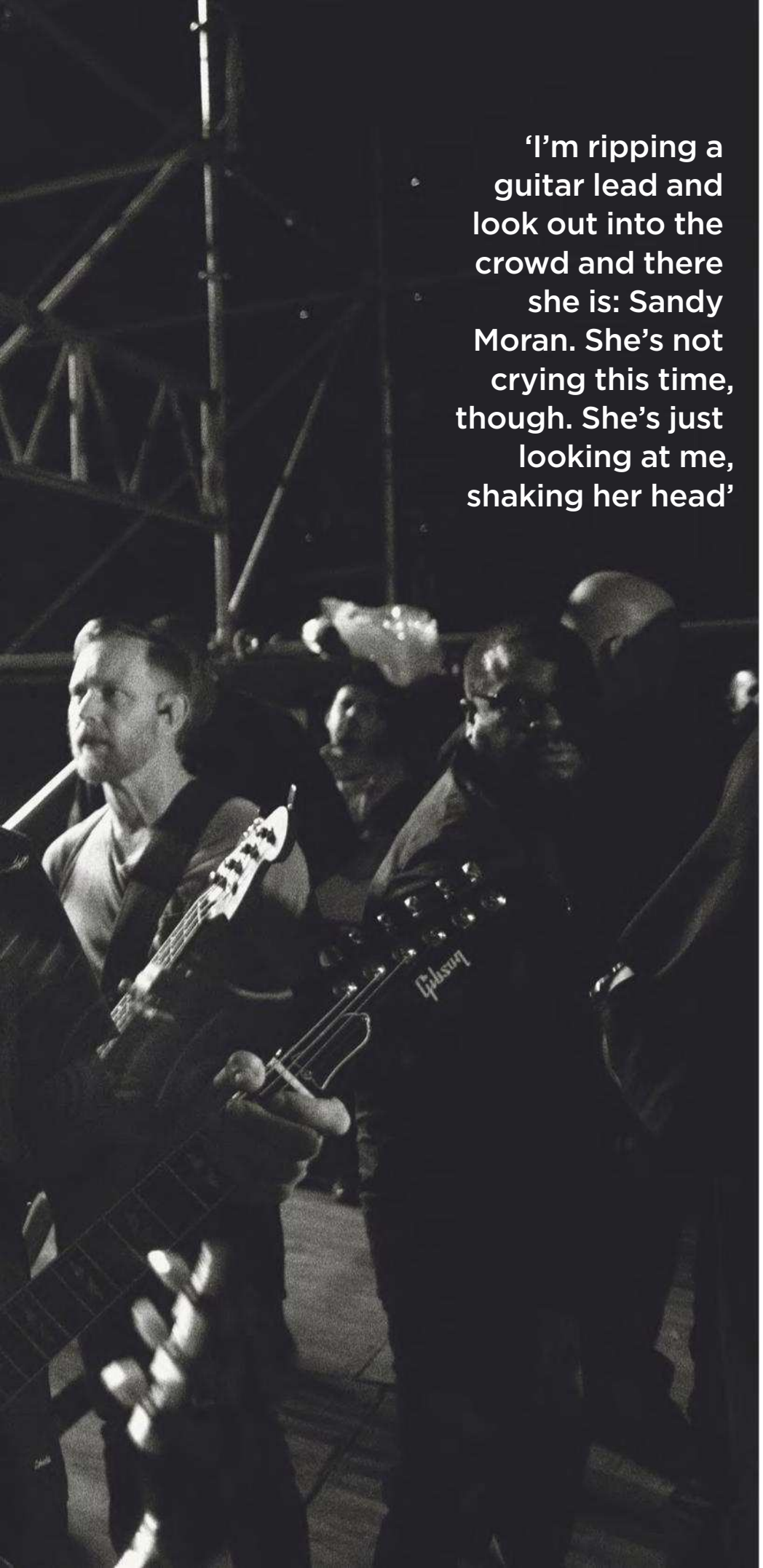
Grohl takes a beat. "You know the very first thing that happened to me when I joined Nirvana?" he asks, his enthusiasm just beginning to edge into anger. "The very first time I stepped properly into the music industry and handed over my trust to someone else, outside of my punk-rock friends and family in DC? I got sued. Some piece of paper I signed in a van outside a Denny's diner when I was in a band called Scream, starving, nothing to lose, not thinking any of this would go anywhere. Then I signed with Nirvana and I got sued for $40,000 straight out of the gate because some guy said I was still under contract with him. And that *sucked*.

"No one thought Nirvana would be a big deal," Grohl continues. "No one. And anyone who says they did are full of shit. No one had a clue. So when everything went crazy, when the world started coming to us, when that whole wild ride started happening, it gave me a licence to never have to listen to anyone ever again. From that moment on, no one >>

‘In the Nineties the American Dream was still tangible, still desirable’

For his next project, Grohl will perform and record every part of an experimental 25-minute song

From left: Foo Fighters Pat Smear, Chris Shiflett, Dave Grohl and Nate Mendel



‘I’m ripping a guitar lead and look out into the crowd and there she is: Sandy Moran. She’s not crying this time, though. She’s just looking at me, shaking her head’

>> has ever told me what to do. No one. In 25 years, I have never had anyone ever say to me, ‘Oh, Dave you *have* to do this.’ Fuck you, motherfucker. I’m the president of my record company [Roswell Records]. I own my entire back catalogue. I get to say when we do this, when we do that. So if something needs doing, I’ll just do it myself. If I want to write a 25-minute instrumental, write all the music, play all the instruments, film it and then, guess what, maybe never even release it? I’ll do it. Just because I can. That’s why.”

Dave Grohl has a recurring dream. He’s had it every couple of months for about ten years. He had the same dream again in São Paulo, Brazil, about three nights ago. The dream is about a house. A house built on a hill. It’s huge. In the dream, Grohl, just as he is most days – long hair, flannel shirt, beard, grin, an Avengers amount of energy emitting out of him – walks into the house and it feels like home. He goes from room to room. Sometimes a dinner party is going on, sometimes with people he recognises, sometimes strangers, but the vibe is always friendly, always welcoming.

“The rooms are vast,” he explains, “large, bare-beamed ceilings. Sometimes there are rooms within rooms, sometimes on split levels. I could draw you a blueprint of this house. But in every one of these same dreams I know the house isn’t mine. I want it. I *really* want it. But in the dream I’m still waiting for it to come on the market. I know it will, eventually, but as of that moment, it isn’t mine.

“I look for this house all the time, wherever I’m touring with the band. Sometimes I think I’ll turn a corner when I am driving and it’ll be there and I’ll just know. But you know what I thought this year? You know when people say they are building their dream house? Well, this is mine. So I’m just going to build it. I mean who’s going to stop me?”

Grohl sparks up a Parliament Light and we sit staring out of the huge hotel window, the boats on the Río De La Plata below carving their frothy wake through the brown water to Uruguay. And just for a brief moment, Dave Grohl stops talking. **GQ**

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The poisoned cup

Story by **Oliver Bullough**

Combat-ready supporters, investigative journalists imprisoned and friends of the are preparing to host the most ruthless football tournament in history. And whichever summer's World Cup, hosted against a backdrop of corruption, contract hits and

Football ultras and criminals have long been hired by the Kremlin as allies

President Vladimir Putin joins the World Cup Trophy tour in Moscow, 9 September 2017; (opposite) tensions flare at a derby of Moscow teams Dynamo and Torpedo at the Eduard Streltsov Stadium, 26 September 2012

Photographs **Getty Images**

president in receipt of billion-dollar windfalls... across the motherland, Russians nation lifts the trophy, one man's victory looks secure. But ahead of this hooliganism, the net of international intrigue is closing in on Vladimir Putin

When Fifa awarded this year's World Cup to Russia, its then general secretary, SEPP BLATTER, said it had wanted to take the sport into new lands and to extend football's horizons. The real reason Fifa decided to favour VLADIMIR PUTIN'S bid remains disputed, as we shall see, but Blatter was right about one thing: this World Cup will indeed be something unprecedented. English fans will have a chance to witness that during their team's first match on 18 June, against Tunisia, at a brand-new stadium in Stalingrad, site of the bloodiest battle in history. Only it's not called Stalingrad any more, of course, it's called Volgograd and there's nowhere else on earth quite like it.

Operation Barbarossa began on 22 June 1941, when Adolf Hitler's Wehrmacht invaded the Soviet Union. The Red Army was overwhelmed. It lost millions of men as it was pushed back deep into Soviet territory. Just over a year after first crossing the border, German soldiers reached the Volga River, at a city with a location that made it strategic and a name that made it irresistible.

According to most estimates, in just the first week of German bombing Stalingrad lost 40,000 civilians, almost as many as Britain lost during the whole of the Blitz. The Soviet death toll continued to be horrific as its troops poured across the river to defend their shrinking footprint on the right bank, battling suicidally in what the Germans called *Rattenkrieg*, the war of the rats. After three grinding months, Soviet tanks counter-attacked, smashing the flanks of Germany's Sixth Army and trapping its soldiers in the city.

In February 1943, the 91,000 Axis troops still alive – including 22 generals – surrendered. Half a million Soviet soldiers had died to secure this defeat, but it turned the course of the Second World War, transforming the battle of Stalingrad into the most heroic chapter in the Russians' "Great Victory". Just two tiny pockets of the city's riverbank never fell to the Germans and the site of Volgograd Arena is one of them. The stadium where England play their first match sits on perhaps the most sacred ground in all of Russia.

A very fine stadium it is too. Shaped like a fur hat, decorated with intricate stars of interlocking metalwork and capable of seating 45,000 people, it was finished in early 2018. It is best viewed from the vantage point of the Mamayev Kurgan, an old Tatar burial mound that was fought over remorselessly during the battle and which is now topped with "The Motherland Calls", a gigantic statue of a woman calling those behind her into the fray. Her sword alone is 27 metres long. A plaque asks you to keep off the grass: it covers a mass grave containing 34,505 bodies.

The World Cup is a military parade, but more fun. Putin wanted it, and got it, whatever the cost

Beneath the statue's left foot is a domed chamber studded with Soviet emblems, surrounding an eternal flame. A plaque thanks all the soldiers who fought here and is signed by commander-in-chief Joseph Stalin. Beneath her right foot is an Orthodox church, with gold domes glinting against the clear blue sky. Few places better symbolise the uneasy relationship between Russia's past and present than the Mamayev Kurgan.

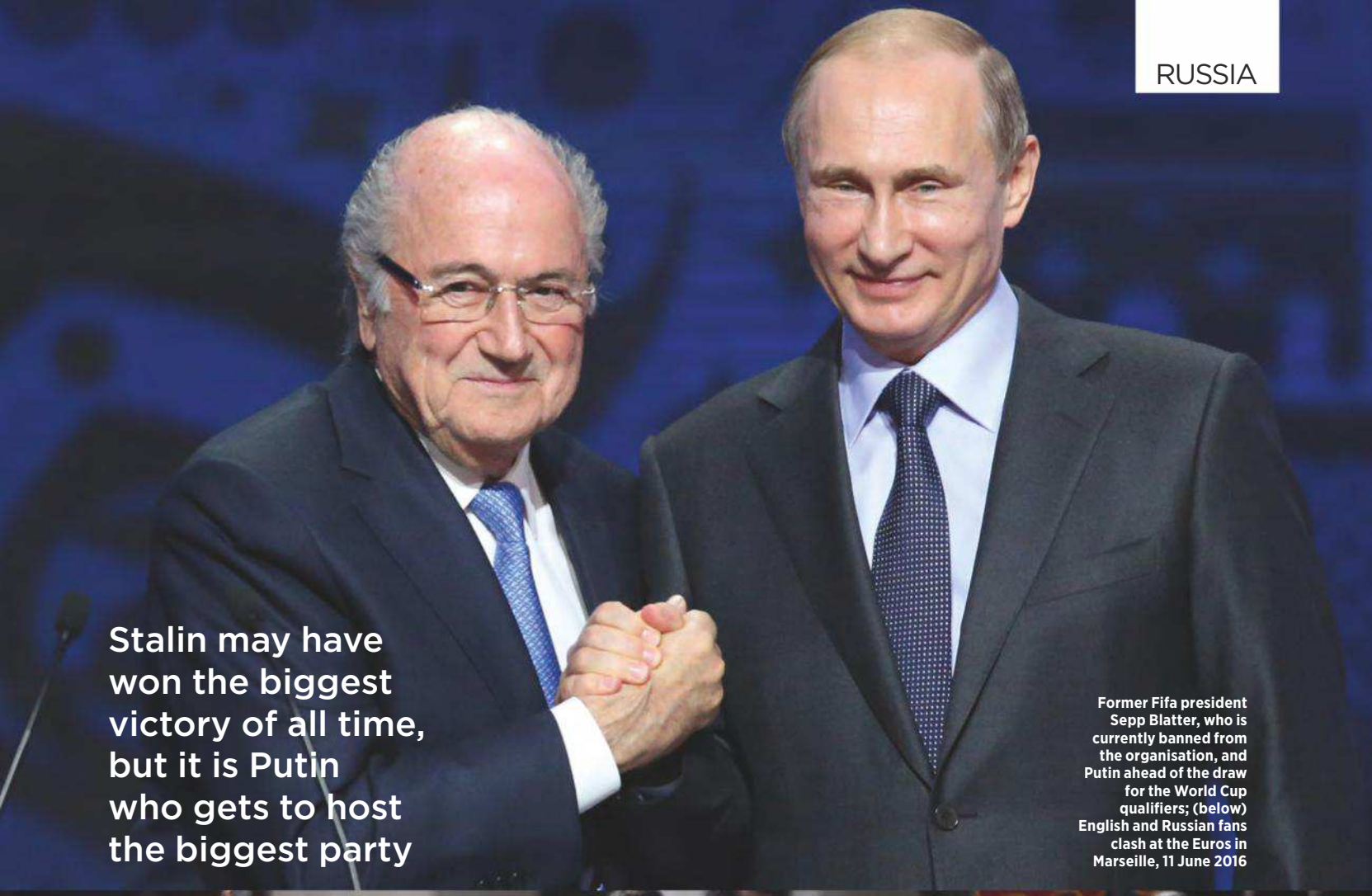
Stalingrad became Volgograd in 1961, after Stalin's successor denounced his purges and repression, but the dictator still looms over the city, rather like he looms over the whole country. You can't entirely reject Stalin if you don't reject the victory he won and no one wants to do that. Instead, the victory is celebrated in ever-greater military parades every 9 May – Victory Day – with Putin, as Stalin did, presiding benignly on Red Square.

Volgograd Arena was originally going to be called Victory Arena, although this name appears to have been quietly vetoed by Fifa out of concerns it was too political. That means the stadium is now pretty much the only thing in town not named after the victory: even the trams proclaim the city's glory as they trundle up Lenin Avenue, a mural of Marx, Engels and Lenin to the left of them and a Burger King to the right.

"Your MI6 is very strong, but not as strong as ours, though that doesn't stop your people from blaming us for everything. That's why we need Stalin. To stop the Americans from giving us haemorrhoids," said Irina Valentinova, a chuckling seventysomething guide at Volgograd's Stalin Museum, when she heard I was from Britain. I was part of a small group she was showing around the three rooms of documents and maps that culminate in a waxwork of the man himself, which was available for selfies. "Pick up his pipe. Go on. Shake him by the hand," she urged, as I posed for a photograph. "Putin can't meet you. He's busy, but at least you've been a guest at Stalin's."

I wanted to ask the museum's founder why he had created this grisly memorial to one of history's greatest monsters and whether visiting football fans might not be more appalled than impressed, but Valentinova told me he was dead. (I later discovered he had been beaten to death while playing tennis, in a 2010 contract hit.) But, never mind, there were plenty of good things in the gift shop. >>

Photographs **Getty Images**



Stalin may have won the biggest victory of all time, but it is Putin who gets to host the biggest party

Former Fifa president Sepp Blatter, who is currently banned from the organisation, and Putin ahead of the draw for the World Cup qualifiers; (below) English and Russian fans clash at the Euros in Marseille, 11 June 2016

James Comey
Former FBI director, whose dismissal forms part of Robert Mueller's investigation.
Hillary Clinton
Took over funding for Fusion GPS's dossier on Trump.
Donald Trump
The US president... at the time of writing.
Robert Mueller
Former FBI director investigating possible electoral collusion between Russia and President Trump.
FIFA
The Trump-Russia DOSSIER
FUSION GPS
US Election 2016
Strategic intelligence firm Fusion GPS's investigation was funded by the Clinton campaign until days before the election.
FBI
ORBIS
The Fifa DOSSIER
The assassination DOSSIER
Sepp Blatter
The former Fifa president is under criminal investigation for alleged corruption.
Christopher Steele
The founder of Orbis Business Intelligence formerly ran MI6's Russia desk.
World Cup 2018
Assigned by the FA in 2010 to investigate Fifa, Steele's investigation helped oust its president, Sepp Blatter.
FA
MI6
Salisbury poisoning
Retired Russian military intelligence officer and British citizen Sergei Skripal and his daughter were poisoned by a nerve agent in March this year.

To catch a spider

Investigations into alleged corruption and collusion has woven spies, presidents and football in a complex web of suspicion – with the Russian president at the centre...

The Trump-Russia dossier

Commissioned by anti-Trump Republican Paul Singer, funding for the Fusion GPS dossier was later taken up by the Clinton campaign. It alleges that Russia had been "cultivating, supporting and assisting" Trump and that the Kremlin had "*kompromat*" – a secretly recorded tape of Trump in a Russian hotel with sex workers.

The Fifa dossier

Private investigator – and former MI6 agent – Christopher Steele's firm, Orbis, was commissioned by the English FA to look into alleged Russian corruption in the bidding process for the 2018 World Cup. His findings were so alarming that he alerted the FBI, as he felt they were the only organisation with the global reach to handle it.

The assassination dossier

The FBI commissioned Orbis to look into the 2015 death in a Washington hotel room of Putin's former media czar Mikhail Lesin (it was subsequently ruled accidental). The report claimed Lesin was beaten to death by Russian state security agents moonlighting for an oligarch close to Putin on the eve of a meeting with US justice department officials.

Graphic by **James Pryor** Text by **Stuart McGurk**

>> She pointed out plates commemorating Stalin and Putin, a Stalin calendar, adult T-shirts showing Putin riding a bear and child-size versions bearing the slogan "Russians don't surrender".

"Maybe education isn't what it was and hospitals are not good and food prices are high and petrol is going up, but you don't have the right not to love your homeland," she said. "That was the time of Stalin and this is the time of Putin."

Indeed it is. Stalin may have won the biggest victory of all time, but it's Putin who gets to host the biggest party.

In some ways, Russia's World Cup is a time capsule from another age, thanks to the eight-year lag between the bid and the tournament. In 2010, when Russia saw off its rivals to secure the championship, Putin was taking a break from being president – he was prime minister – because he wanted to demonstrate how much he honoured the legal ban on serving three consecutive terms in the Kremlin. This was in keeping with what was then his key policy priority: showing Russia to be a predictable and law-abiding member of the family of nations. He joined the World Trade Organization, convened a meeting of the G8 in his home city of Saint Petersburg and worked hard to boost the prestige of the United Nations. Hosting the Winter Olympics and the World Cup were just more ways of showing everyone that Russia was a fun friend and a nice neighbour.

Times have changed, however. Since returning as president in 2012, Putin has been more interested in breaking things than building them. Having secured the right to host the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia cheated on an industrial scale, allegedly employing state security to help its athletes dope. Just a few weeks after the end of the games, Putin annexed Crimea and sent troops into Eastern Ukraine. He has since been accused of using hackers to troll the United States during the 2016 election, successfully undermining presidential candidate Hillary Clinton – whom he blamed for supporting protesters against him in 2011-12 – and helping secure the election of Donald Trump. In his first term, Putin argued vociferously against the US's unilateral military action in the Middle East. Now it is he who is ignoring world opinion and bombing Arab cities.

My trip to Volgograd in March took place the week after the Russian spy Sergei Skripal was poisoned with a nerve agent in Salisbury, a nadir in relations between Moscow and the West, even lower than when Russia invaded Ukraine. Defence secretary Gavin Williamson told Russia it should "go away and shut up" and a Russian spokesman responded by calling him a "fishwife". Although my reception was kinder than this, I was still lectured for much of the evening by fellow passengers when I took the night train from Volgograd to Moscow and many of my interviewees cancelled.

It may be in anticipation of such unpleasantness that English fans have failed to apply for tickets in anything like the numbers they did for the World Cups in Brazil and South Africa. After all, Russia now looks more like the neighbour from hell than a fun friend to share a drink with. Fans may also have been put off by the spectator violence that marred England's game against Russia in Marseilles in 2016, which left 31 England fans injured and three Russians in jail, and the fact that Putin appeared to find it funny.

Putin unleashed that trademark smirk: 'I do not know how 200 Russian fans were able to pummel several thousand Britons'

The Russian president did try to make the right noises of condemnation, but he couldn't quite resist showing off about how easily Russia's hooligans had beaten their rivals. "This is absolutely outrageous," Putin told an economic forum shortly after the unlovely 1-1 draw that sparked the clashes, before unleashing his trademark smirk. "Granted, I do not know how 200 Russian fans were able to pummel several thousand Britons." A ripple of laughter spread through the hall.

That comment was not surprising to anyone who has followed the history of Russian hooliganism. Football ultras have long been enlisted by the Kremlin as allies against potential protestations to the staggering wealth of Putin's friends (as have biker gangs, organised criminals and demobbed Chechen rebels). In 2007, Russia's Football Union endorsed an association of fans known as VOB to oversee the allocation of tickets for away matches and handed control of it to some of the country's most notorious "firms", with whom Putin liked to be photographed sharing a beer.

"The growing professionalisation of hooligan groups who conduct regular combat training and battles with each other has been well documented," wrote Football Against Racism In Europe (Fare), a Fifa-backed body that campaigns for equality in the game, in its report of 2015-7. "Our concern is the type of far-right ideology that these groups follow and the number of links they have within football structures, often as official representatives within professional clubs... Officials seem to appoint leaders of hooligan firms to work with fans in order to control the most troublesome ones. This approach does not work."

The implicit trade-off that Fare was alluding to was that the firms could do what they wanted as long as they were prepared to mobilise in support of Putin if required. VOB was headed by Alexander Shprygin, a man once photographed giving a Nazi salute and who has lamented the presence of nonwhite players in the Russian league. After the battles in Marseilles, the French authorities deported Shprygin. He returned immediately, only to be deported again. "English fans are cool. They invented hooliganism and when you fight them and beat them, that's cool too," he told me when I spoke to him for this article. "It's always cool to beat England on the pitch. In the same way, it's cool to defeat the fans."

It was because of his habit of saying things such as that, plus the fact that the Russian Football Union was fined £130,000 after the Marseilles violence and given a suspended disqualification from the tournament, that the Russian government belatedly decided its alliance with the hooligans was more trouble than it was worth. In 2016, VOB was excluded from the Russian Football Union; Shprygin was investigated for involvement in a mass brawl between Spartak and CSKA fans; and his car was torched. Russia has now brought in special ID cards for football fans, without which they cannot get into the stadiums.

On previous trips to Russia, I've had no trouble finding hooligans happy to talk to me, but this time was different. The pressure on them from the Federal Security Service (FSB) was just too great. Eventually, one ultra agreed to meet at a bar in Volgograd, providing I didn't identify him in any way. He is part of a firm called (in English) "The Dangers", which posts online videos of its mass brawls, but he was pretty depressed about the chance of a scrap when the World Cup begins in May. "There won't be anything unofficial this year. Everything has got really tough now," he said, shrugging. "I won't even be at the games. They refused me."

He had bought tickets to the Confederations Cup, the World Cup warm-up event that took place in 2017, but when he got there discovered his fan ID had been cancelled. "It's difficult now, because of the FSB, the police. They won't let us do anything." >>

Photographs Alamy; Getty Images

Even if many English fans do stay at home, England's players will still, of course, be delighted to be at the World Cup finals. Nonetheless, when they kick off against the Tunisians in Volgograd, it will be a bittersweet moment. England had, after all, been hoping to host the tournament themselves and Volgograd's stadium, though nice, is not Wembley.

David Cameron, David Beckham and Prince William – the press dubbed them "the Three Lions" – headed the final lobbying push at Fifa's meeting in 2010. Their mission was overshadowed by both the *Sunday Times* and *Panorama* accusing Fifa committee members of corruption, but they were confident they had a strong chance, particularly when Putin said he would not be coming in person. "If he does not show in Zurich then the Russia camp, which looked downbeat yesterday, know they will not win," the *Daily Mail* crowed in a report headlined "Roaring Back".

That assertion proved premature. Not only did Russia win, but the FA's humiliation was more complete than anything the national side has ever managed on the pitch. England's bid was rejected in the first round of voting. Out of 22 members on Fifa's council, the FA won the support of just two and one of those worked for the FA. Two years of campaigning and £21 million spent to persuade one person. "We sent the Three Lions," reported a chastened *Daily Mail* the day after the vote. "We may as well have sent the Three Stooges."

Putin turned up after the vote to shake hands, smile for the cameras and deny any corruption had taken place. He can be forgiven his smirk – it must have been a sweet moment – but in some ways his enthusiasm for the World Cup was peculiar, since he has never shown any sign of liking football. In general, he prefers sports such as judo, skiing, swimming, scuba diving for antiquities, shooting, topless horse-riding, even ice hockey – anything that makes him personally look good on television – over watching the beautiful game. But for Putin the tournament was not really about sport, it was about something bigger: telling the world that Russia is back. The World Cup is a military parade, but more fun and with a bigger audience. Putin wanted it and Putin got it, whatever it cost. Cameron is still not over his humiliation.

"We had the best plan, the best stadium, the most enthusiastic supporters," the former prime minister insisted in a 2017 speech. "Putin actually boycotted the whole thing because he said it was riddled with corruption. He was right. It was. And, let me put it like this, I am sure he wasn't completely surprised when Russia actually won the bid." Ten of the 22 Fifa committee members at the time of the vote have since been indicted or punished for corruption, including its ex-president Sepp Blatter, who in 2016 was banned from any role in Fifa for six years.

Russian officials dismiss any suggestion that their nation's representatives cheated as the carping of bad losers. "England didn't just lose to Russia, but to all the bidders," Igor Lebedev, a deputy speaker of parliament and a member of the Russian Football Union's executive committee, reminded me. "There are various ways of reacting to groundless accusations. At first I reacted with humour. Then, I must admit, they started to annoy me. Now we just ignore them. There are just a few weeks left until the start of the World Cup and we're eagerly anticipating this wonderful event."

Fifa did look into whether the process of awarding the World Cup to Russia had been crooked, but its investigator didn't get anywhere, largely because the Russians made "only a limited number of documents available". Regrettably, the computers the Russian bid team used had been destroyed. Equally sadly, their email accounts were no longer accessible and the report by the government's audit chamber could not be provided either. To be certain, Russia barred Michael Garcia, the American heading Fifa's investigation, from entering the country. It'll take a lot more than Fifa to catch Putin with his hand in the till.

'The Sochi Olympics was a pigs' trough of corruption. The World Cup is five times as big'

Christopher Steele, the former MI6 agent turned private investigator, who famously wrote a report accusing Donald Trump of links to the Kremlin, helped the *Sunday Times* look into the scandal and the paper later gave evidence to parliament on why England's bid had been such a disaster. "Don't expect me or anyone else to produce a document with Putin's signature saying please X bribe Y with this amount in this way," the *Sunday Times* quoted Steele as saying. "Putin is an ex-intelligence officer. Everything he does has to be deniable. [The Winter Olympics at] Sochi was a complete pigs' trough in terms of corruption and the World Cup is five times as big."

Putin may desire these giant sporting spectacles so he can show off, but his friends use them to get rich. According to the politician and anti-corruption campaigner Boris Nemtsov, insiders embezzled perhaps as much as $30 billion (£21bn) from the budget for Russia's 2014 Sochi Olympics (Nemtsov was shot dead within sight of the Kremlin a year later, in 2015). Those accusations proved extremely embarrassing for Putin and, if the World Cup was going to be even more crooked, the embarrassment could be extreme. So the authorities took steps to avoid it.

One of the people who caused that embarrassment is a resident of Sochi, Semyon Simonov, who has long campaigned for the rights of migrant labourers. He helped workers to meet journalists and briefed the press about how hundreds of them had died creating the infrastructure for the 2014 Sochi Games. His revelations launched hundreds of headlines.

Together with Human Rights Watch (HRW), Simonov decided to do the same thing for the World Cup, by touring the country and collecting information on working conditions at the building sites. In April 2017, he arrived in Volgograd, walked to the stadium and began looking for sources to talk to. He didn't get far, however, since he was already expected. "Some of the workers were just sitting there, having lunch, talking. When I tried to go up to them, three men in camouflage appeared in front of me and one man in civilian clothes," Simonov told me by telephone from Sochi. "The one in normal clothes asked, 'Are you Semyon?' I said yes and they suggested I go with them to the police station." That was the end of his investigations in Volgograd.

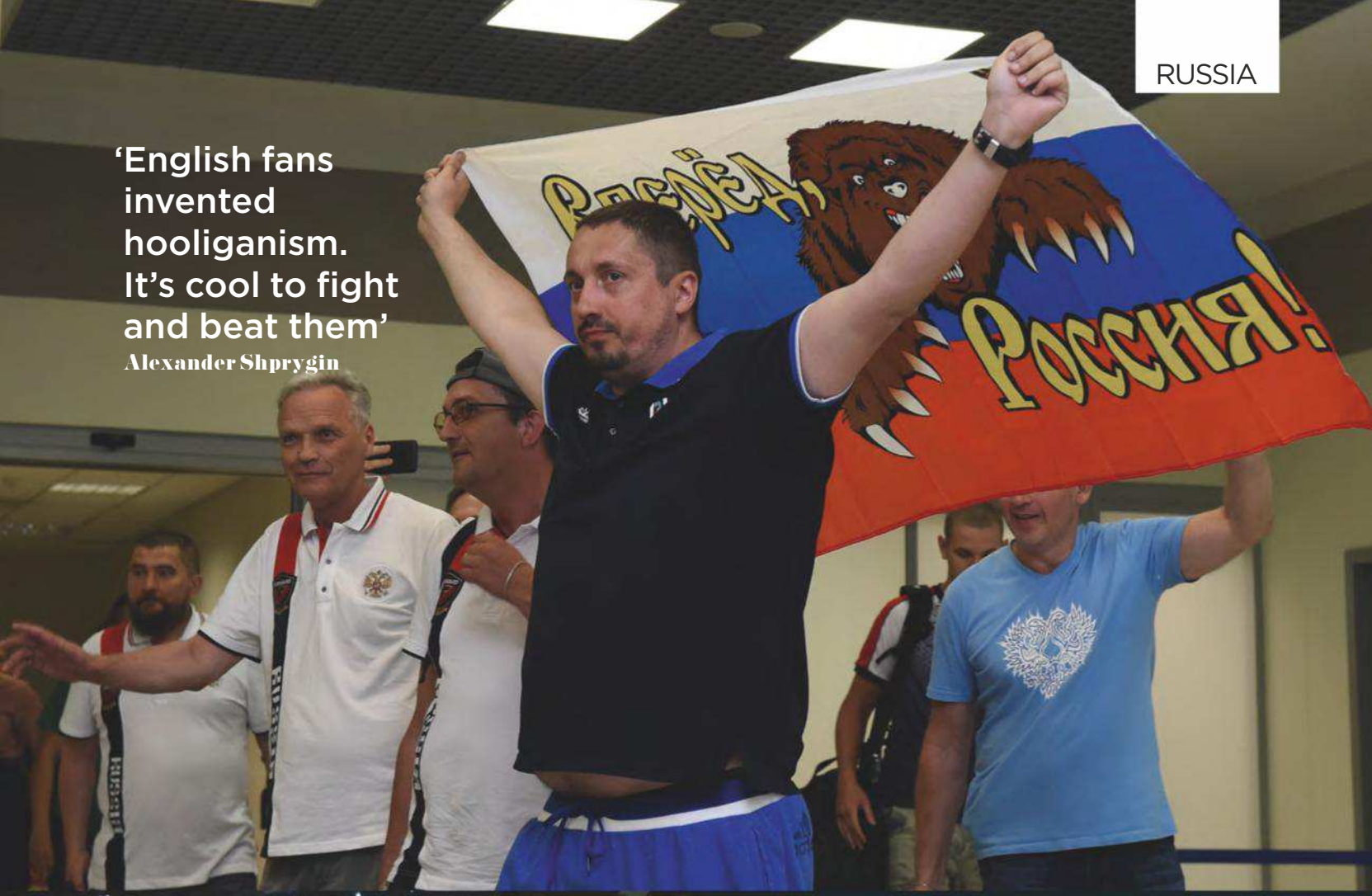
"That basically stopped us from doing this research, because we couldn't. It just was not worth the risk for that to happen again or to get worse... We worked for about five years in the run-up to Sochi and we never faced anything this deliberate or premeditated," Jane Buchanan, associate director of HRW's Europe and Central Asia division, told me. "Russia is ever more restrictive in terms of the media and human rights activists doing work on these issues. The human rights community is basically fighting to survive."

Corruption investigators haven't found their lives easy either. Transparency International's (TI) 2017 Corruption Perceptions Index rates Russia as the most institutionally dishonest country in Europe, below places such as Liberia and Iran, and two years ago TI's Russian chapter appealed for all World Cup spending to be transparent and accountable >>

Photographs **Getty Images; PA**

‘English fans invented hooliganism. It’s cool to fight and beat them’

Alexander Shprygin



Clockwise: Alexander Shprygin (centre) leads the controversial state-backed Russian fan union, VOB; English and Russian supporters fight at Marseille’s Stade Vélodrome during Euro 2016; Putin joins Shpygrin to lay flowers on the grave of slain Spartak Moscow supporter Yegor Sviridov

‘Putin is a former intelligence officer. Everything he does has to be deniable’

Putin joins Pelé and Maradona at the State Kremlin Palace to draw the groups for the World Cup Finals, 1 December 2017

>> to prevent any repeat of the massive corruption that marred the Sochi Games. One of the authors of that appeal was Andrey Jvirblis, deputy director of TI Russia, and he told me he had been sadly disappointed in the government's response to his suggestion, or rather its lack of one.

Almost everything about the World Cup was questionable, he said, including the choice of the host cities ("Saransk is a shithole in the middle of nowhere and it's a host city of the Fifa World Cup? Nobody knows why"), the choice of contractors, the bidding process, the budget and more. "My first idea was to look at the general papers, then I found there is no unified source of information where I could look at all the things as a whole," he told me in his Moscow office. "Fifa doesn't require that, so nobody asks, nobody wants. There is no requirement, so nobody will do it."

Russia's small and fragmented civil society organisations simply do not have the resources to piece together every funding document from every branch of national, regional and local government involved in the World Cup, meaning there is total public ignorance about how the tournament is being paid for. TI Russia did manage to analyse the construction of roads for the event and concluded almost half the money spent had gone on questionable contracts. That alone, TI concluded, will have inflated the sum paid by the government by more than $43m (£30m), but that is a rounding error compared to the amount of money available. A government decree increased the official World Cup budget by $600m (£428m) to $11.8bn (£8.4bn) in October and no one said why.

That means no systematic analysis has been attempted of potential embezzlement of public funds going towards construction of the World Cup stadiums, although some journalists did try to do so in Kaliningrad, a tiny enclave of Russia surrounded by the European Union where England will play Belgium on 28 June, probably to decide who tops the group.

The local government, for reasons of its own, decided to build the Kaliningrad Stadium on a swampy island, which lacked the kind of bedrock needed for sturdy foundations. As a result, about 2,000 50-metre piles were driven down for the stadium to sit on, along with a truly extraordinary quantity of sand.

A group of three local officials have since been arrested and charged for inflating the price of sand in order to profit from the state procurement process, but according to the analysis of Igor Rudnikov, a campaigning journalist for the local paper *Novye Kolyosa* ("new wheels"), the police investigation could be a cover-up for an even deeper level of corruption. Rudnikov was not available for me to interview, however. He was arrested in November 2017 after a general in the interior ministry's powerful investigative committee accused him of attempting to extort $50,000 (£35,700) from him. Rudnikov, who survived a frenzied stabbing assault in 2016, had earlier written an article saying the general's lakeside residence was far too luxurious for him to afford on his state salary.

The questionable circumstances of his arrest have led to criticism from most of the world's press freedom groups and the respected Russian human rights organisation Memorial has declared Rudnikov to be a political prisoner. Fifa has not, however. Its new Human Rights Advisory Board issued its first report on 9 November, eight days after Rudnikov was arrested. It did not mention his arrest or the harassment of Semyon Simonov. "While World Cup-related investigations may or may not have prompted this latest attack on Rudnikov, Fifa should take notice and uphold its pledge to stand up for human rights," said Buchanan in a statement.

Almost everything about the World Cup is questionable: the host cities, contractors, bidding process, budget and more

Without powerful allies, it is perhaps not at all surprising that Russia's beleaguered journalists and activists have struggled to investigate the World Cup as thoroughly as they did the Sochi Olympics. Hundreds of questions remain unanswered. How, for example, did the $285m (£203m) contract to build the Volgograd Arena end up in the hands of Gennady Timchenko, one of Putin's oldest friends, Russia's fifth richest man and one of the targets of extensive sanctions imposed by the US State Department? And how did he win the even larger $294m (£210m) contract to build the stadium in Nizhny Novgorod, where England will play Panama on 24 June?

Considering the current state of relations between Russia and the West, it is perhaps fortunate the United States did not qualify for the tournament. After all, it would be extremely awkward for them to play in a stadium built by someone considered so closely connected to the "unlawful effort to undermine Ukraine's security, stability and sovereignty" that Washington has barred its citizens from dealing with him.

Igor Lebedev, a member of both Russia's parliament and its football union's governing body, declined to meet me when I was in Moscow, perhaps out of concern about being seen with a Brit at a time when our countries were expelling one another's diplomats. But he was careful to answer my emailed questions in English as well as in Russian to make sure I understood. "The World Cup is a huge opportunity for us to demonstrate the beauty of Russia and the hospitality of Russians," Lebedev wrote.

He's right: Russians know how to throw a party and fans who do go to Volgograd for England's opening game will see not just the football, but also the site of the greatest battle in history. But in another way, he's wrong: this is not Russia's championship, it's Putin's. It has been his friends who have made money from it, his hooligans who threaten its stability and his foreign policy adventures that are scaring away fans.

Don't expect him to look interested, however. That's not Putin's style. He may turn up to the opening ceremony and a few other games. Perhaps he'll even visit the Volgograd Arena, which will also host Russia's domestic cup final on 9 May – Victory Day, when else? – but his focus moved on long ago. Putin plays now on a global scale, from Syria to Salisbury, from Eastern Ukraine to the West Wing, constantly keeping his opponents guessing as to what he will break next. Confining his attention to a rectangle of grass and a 90-minute window must seem absurdly insignificant.

It is a sign of how dramatically Putin has changed course that it is now impossible to imagine Russia again winning the right to host a major sporting tournament while he remains in charge. But he won't care about that. In a game of football, everyone has to obey the referee. Russia's president has altogether lost patience with following anyone's rules but his own. **GQ**

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Photograph **Getty Images**

LÍBERTAD AL GOBIERNO ESCOGIDO POR EL PUEBLO
LLIBERTAT PRESOS POLÍTICS!
ARA, LA UNITAT ÉS DIGNITAT!
O ENS UNIM, O ENS N'ANEM TOTS A CAN FELIP

Divine secrets of the

Photograph **Eyevine**

‘[Catalan independence] is very complicated... Without a desire for conversation it will be impossible to solve’

Pistachio artichoke from Adrià restaurant Hoja Santa; (left) demonstrators in the streets of Barcelona demand independence for Catalonia, March 2018

Barça brotherhood

The Catalan capital is currently one of the most volatile cities in Europe, a hotbed of civil unrest as the region tries to wrestle constitutional control back from the Spanish government and residents demonstrate against a seemingly exponential stream of tourists. It was also the site, last year, of a devastating terrorist attack. And yet Barcelona is still one of the greatest cultural cities of the world, alive with music, dance, an artistic renaissance and the most influential restaurants in the world. This foodie revival is the work of not one man, but two, Ferran Adrià and his brother, Albert, but just how far can they take their culinary obsession?

Story by **Dylan Jones**

The legendary Liverpool manager Bill Shankly once said that some people think football is a matter of life and death. "I don't like that attitude," he continued. "I can assure them it is much more serious than that." In Barcelona, the Adrià brothers think pretty much the same way about food.

The first time I went to Ferran's impossible-to-get-into three-Michelin-starred restaurant El Bulli back in 2006 I felt like my teenage self, worrying if I was going to get into a suburban nightclub or not. We were going to be staying with friends near Barcelona and as a way of saying thank you thought it would be a nice idea to take them to dinner there. When I suggested this to my then-assistant, she literally laughed at me. "Why are you wasting my time?" she asked, not unreasonably. "You won't get in."

Anyway, a few weeks after sending our fax, requesting a table, we got one back, saying everything had been confirmed. Even at the time, using a fax seemed like a ridiculously antiquated way to organise a booking system (they demanded it), but when we got the green light, I didn't care. I packed it in my suitcase and prayed that the ink wouldn't fade by the time we got to Catalonia.

It didn't, although by the time my wife and our two guests arrived at the restaurant just outside Roses, overlooking Cala Montjoi, a bay on Catalonia's Costa Brava, and a three-hour drive from Barcelona, I still had a sense that the whole thing could have been a hoax. It was only when the maître d' gave us all a warm smile that I knew everything was going to be OK. Walking in, El Bulli itself looked completely unprepossessing, like a kind of extravagant ski lodge, and it wasn't until we were taken into the staggeringly clean kitchen that we saw what we had read about – the extraordinarily complex machine that between 2002 and 2009 was judged by *Restaurant* magazine to be the best in the world no fewer than five times. A bastion of molecular gastronomy – caviar that looked like ravioli, ice cream that tasted like chicken curry, the fizz and tannins of the modern world – it was regularly called the most imaginative generator of *haute cuisine* on the planet, before it closed in 2011.

Mmmmmmm. What strange alchemy was this? Our meal started with a seemingly normal dry Martini – but which on closer inspection was actually a green globule of reconstituted olive, placed on the tongue and then spritzed with atomised gin and vermouth. This was followed by an apple Mojito baguette, a Gorgonzola balloon, a clam meringue, salmon niguiri, liquid hazelnut "porra" and dozens of other novelties that encouraged *pensées métaphysiques* as well as sheer bewilderment. *Mmmmmmm*. Yes, the food was extraordinary – so extraordinary that we went back the following year – and, yes, the culinary invention was bewildering, but what impressed me most was the service. As we were looking through the menu, the sommelier came up and asked me to choose some wine. Not having ever chosen wines for molecular cooking I had no idea what to order, so I simply asked him to bring what he thought would complement the food and to try to make the wines local. As I was taking our hosts to dinner I could hardly say, "Oh, and make sure nothing's over €30." So I left him to do his worst. Now, in many other places, they could (would) have fleeced me, serving wines that complemented the food but were outrageously expensive. Here, when the bill came, not one bottle cost more than €16 or €17 and the wine we drank was excellent. So the evening was compounded by their good nature and it turned out to be one of the best restaurant experiences I've ever had, with or without my clothes on.

My assistant asked, 'Why are you wasting my time? You won't get in'

Enigma in Barcelona is the sixth restaurant opened by the Adrià brothers in Barcelona

Last summer we needed to return another favour, this time actually in Barcelona, and someone mentioned Tickets, another Ferran Adrià establishment (this one a shared operation with Albert that opened the year El Bulli closed) and among the most difficult restaurants in the world to get into (it seats 80, which sounds a lot until you hear that since it opened they have had more than 1.5 million booking requests), even harder to get into than El Bulli. In fact, when a friend of the couple we were taking to dinner found out we had a reservation, he said he'd fly all the way there if he could bum a seat – and he lives in California. He had tried to make a reservation a few weeks previously and been told he couldn't get one for at least seven months.

Ferran and Albert now have six restaurants in Barcelona (what they call "El Barri") and are slowly turning it into their own private fiefdom, but Tickets is the one that people blithely say you can't get into, the fine-dining experience that looks like a 19th-century burger bar as imagined by Elvis Presley's interior designer. Originally, the restaurant had a three-month reservations window, which meant that since the three months would be totally booked up, the only means of getting a table would be to wait until midnight to make a reservation for the night three months on from that date. As the joke went when it opened, here is a restaurant called Tickets, where it is impossible to actually get one. Of course, seeing that the Adriàs had just opened Enigma, their latest gastronomic funfair, the logical thing would have been to eat there (or at least >>

Photographs **Camera Press; Pablo Zamorano**

After following the august El Bulli in Roses, Spain, with a series of restaurants in Barcelona, Ferran Adrià is considered a gastronomic genius

El Bulli was voted the best restaurant in the world no fewer than five times

The 'Liquid' olive tapas at Tickets, Barcelona. Small-plate dishes also cross the pass at Enigma

>> try to), but Tickets has such a fierce reputation that it seemed sensible to try that first. Which is what we did.

The restaurant deliberately looks like a fast-food joint, brightly lit and full of kitsch artefacts. With its circus trappings and oddly dressed waiters, it feels a little like a smart restaurant in a theme park, with everything being a bit more utilitarian than you'd like it to be. The food is predictably spectacular. Essentially this is bonkers tapas: liquid ravioli; rabbit ribs with foamed aioli; an "air baguette" (an empty crust larded with Ibérico ham); watermelon infused with sangria; mini airbags stuffed with manchego; marinated salmon with truffled honey and yoghurt) – but it's slow, which makes its delivery seem rather outmoded and pretentious.

A few years ago, I took my youngest daughter to Stockholm for the weekend and one night we went to one of the smartest restaurants in town, a place that had more than likely based its modus operandi on Noma in Copenhagen. It was fun, but again the food came so slowly that after a while you really just wanted everything brought at once. There's only so many times a waiter can approach you, Uriah Heep-like, and ostentatiously place an enormous gadrooned salver in front of you while whispering things like, "Sir, your potato." It was my daughter who said that the whole experience would have been improved if they had brought all the ingredients at once, instead of dismantling the food as though it were an engine. (Our enjoyment/frustration was made even more enjoyable/frustrating as a food critic had arrived five minutes before we did, so everything he got, we got a few minutes later, giving us plenty of time to prepare our gags.) Tickets was even slower.

One of the oddest things about Tickets is the fact that when it's time for dessert, you get taken into another restaurant entirely, a room through a curtain that looks as though it's run by someone else. It's a nice conceit and brings another gear to the experience, moving it up just when you ought to be coming down. I think, though, it may have jumped the shark, at least on the night we were there. When we arrived, we were shown to a table right next to a couple who were being filmed for a reality TV show. This was explained to us, although we weren't asked if we minded, just reassured that this wouldn't interfere with our evening. This wasn't strictly true. The cameraman hovered around us all night and, although it was quite funny, it was slightly intrusive. After all, if you arrived at a restaurant and you were given a multiple-choice questionnaire asking whether or not you'd like to be seated next to a couple being filmed for a reality TV show, I wouldn't imagine that many of us would tick the "yes" box. Our discomfort was compounded when a researcher came up to us at the end of the meal, asking us to sign release forms – unsurprisingly, I declined on behalf of us all. She wasn't happy, but then, in all honesty, neither were we. Having said that, the almost surreal nature of the interruption just added to the *étrangeté* of the experience.

Essentially this is bonkers tapas: liquid ravioli, rabbit ribs and 'air baguettes'

For Ferran, the restaurant's playful nature is what makes it particular. "Tickets is a unique concept and it was probably the restaurant that initiated the concept of *haute cuisine*," he says. "It's daring and creative [food] in an exciting and jaunty setting, with a relaxed service, in an urban environment. The environment appeals to the Mediterranean spirit, the Catalan spirit, and is designed to feel like a mix between Barcelona and New York." Albert likes to say that the reason for Tickets' good fortune is its egalitarian nature, even though it's practically impossible to get into. "The key to its success has been because we produce *haute cuisine* for all kinds of people. The guests have given us the trust and we haven't stopped growing."

Ferran is still considered to be one of the most famous chefs in the world and yet it is Albert who has been driving the Barcelona takeover. For years, Albert Adrià was simply known as Ferran's younger brother, for being the pastry chef at El Bulli and for inventing one of its signature dishes, the Parmesan marshmallow. However, he is a formidable technician and gastronomic scientist, who eventually oversaw the restaurant's research and development division. When his brother decided to close El Bulli, the pair embarked on the next stage of their development together and each of their subsequent ventures in Barcelona have had dual custody. In this role reversal Ferran is the backroom wizard and Albert the showman. "Albert and I have always complemented each other, as we did at El Bulli," says Ferran. "In the past few years I have become more involved in the gastronomy world and the El Bulli Foundation, while in the restaurant business Albert is the one who occupies very clearly the predominant position. I am always there when needed, but he is at the forefront."

Both men appear more like storied sushi chefs than their brash TV counterparts, who these days appear to open restaurants just so they can boost their fame. And both men believe strongly in the sovereignty of creative freedom.

When they opened Tickets, the brothers also unveiled 41 Degrees, a cocktail bar (now closed) and they have since gone on to open a cluster of eateries in Barcelona's El Paral-lel >>

Photographs Eyevine; Diego Lafuente

In a city of cathedrals, the Adriàs have built a citadel of gastronomic worship

Albert Adrià, Ferran's brother and co-conspirator, achieved new heights in maverick haute cuisine, including his signature Parmesan marshmallow

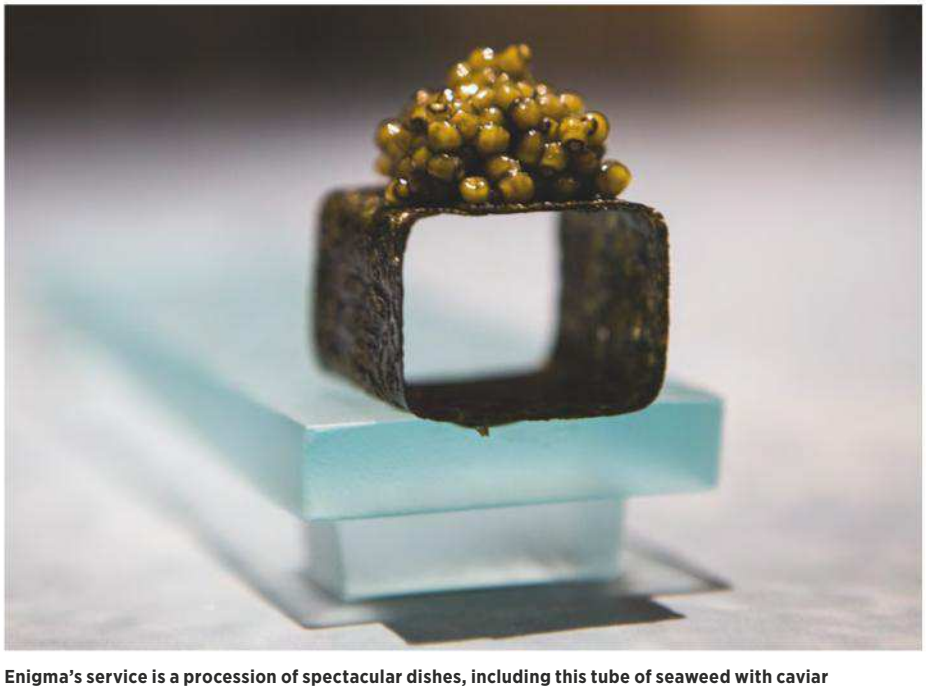
>> neighbourhood. Hoja Santa and Niño Viejo both offer modern takes on Mexican cuisine; Pakta is the only restaurant in the city to offer Nikkei food, the Peruvian-Japanese mash-up; and Bodega 1900 serves dishes that were popular around 100 years ago, as well as a great selection of vermouth. The latter, as *Condé Nast Traveller* has it, is where to go if you can't get into Tickets.

Last year the brothers launched Enigma, which was immediately labelled Barcelona's most secretive restaurant, a veritable culinary Valhalla. Here, 28 diners a night make their way through 40 small courses in seven rooms ("The best way of satisfying a diner is to offer him numerous bites of small dimensions, because they reveal a lot," says Ferran, in his enigmatic Spanish accent), with an average meal lasting between three and four hours. Enigma is the latest example of the brothers' monomaniacal obsession with making the Catalan capital the foodie centre of the world. Forget the Michelin-driven villages of France, the valleys of Napa or the gilded towers of Las Vegas, it is here in Barcelona where the kitchens really hum. In a city of cathedrals, the Adriàs have built a citadel of gastronomic worship.

The El Paral-lel neighbourhood was previously home to many of the city's nightclubs. Ferran likes it because of its air of decadence and most probably because properties are cheaper to buy here than elsewhere in Barcelona. The boho aura is infectious. When I first came here, in 1986, while walking around town I was nearly mugged (which may have had something to do with the white Katharine Hamnett suit I was wearing), although the Barcelona of today has a decadence limned with gentility, a kind of streetwise gentrification. "I think that right now it is going through an increasingly brilliant period," says Ferran. "All our restaurants are within walking distance of each other because there is a tradition of concentrating leisure pursuits in a particular area. We love Barcelona because our roots are here: familial, cultural, gastronomical. What's more, I love its climate, its way of being, the sociability of the people, its size and proportions. It is a balanced city in all senses of the word, with a very dynamic human fabric and" – ever the pragmatist – "a huge cultural and gastronomical supply."

Ferran's aim is to produce a map on which their restaurants are featured along with other cultural landmarks of the city. It would be "a culinary amusement park map, with different attractions which just share the name of the chef and the aim of improving constantly. We have some clients who visit for two to three days and they go to different restaurants of ours, but [obviously] I would like this to happen more often."

'We want to make a culinary amusement park with different attractions'



Enigma's service is a procession of spectacular dishes, including this tube of seaweed with caviar

Photograph **David Loftus**

Barcelona didn't feel like much of an amusement park last summer. On the afternoon of 17 August, 22-year-old Younes Abouyaaqoub, a Moroccan Islamic State sympathiser, drove a rented white Fiat van into pedestrians on Las Ramblas, the city's busiest tourist street, killing 13 people and injuring at least 130 others. Nine hours after the attack, five men – thought to be members of the same terrorist cell – drove into pedestrians in nearby Cambrils, killing one woman and injuring six others. All five attackers were shot and killed by police. The incident was the worst terror attack on Spanish soil since March 2004, when 191 people were killed and more than 1,800 were injured when four commuter trains were bombed in Madrid (supposedly by an Al-Qaeda group).

The atrocities shocked a city already rattled by a recent spate of anti-tourism attacks by small gangs of protesters aggrieved by the huge spike in visitors to the city, which rose from 27 million in 2012 to more than 36m by 2016, vastly outnumbering the 1.6m residents. Last year, on a billboard near the Plaça De La Universitat metro station, a crudely executed cartoon featuring a burning carrier bag carried the words in English, "Barcelona. It's not your fucking shopping center." For some, this advertisement was an example of radical leftist mayor Ada Colau's anti-tourism agenda, as it could only have appeared with her approval. Shortly afterwards, the Catalan digital daily el Nacional published a piece accusing Colau's government of promoting "violence against commerce". When Colau, Barcelona's first female mayor, took office in 2015, she threw down a gauntlet as far as tourists are concerned. "We don't want the city to become a cheap souvenir shop," she said, citing Venice as a cautionary example of what goes wrong when you don't regulate tourism. Ironically, there is also now a civic aversion to new restaurants, meaning many young entrepreneurs are starting private dining clubs, held either in homes or in unoccupied retail spaces. Colau's government has initiated legal battles against online platforms that allow homeowners to rent out their properties without paying occupancy taxes.

Yet to walk around the city is to experience one of the most culturally integrated cities in all of Europe, a city where Mayor Colau has encouraged local independent retailers with benevolent tax breaks (particularly in the artsy El Born district), where Airbnb is frowned upon and Uber is banned (it's banned everywhere in Spain, branded >>

‘You find emotion and excitement in small bites, not 20 spoonfuls of soup’

Tickets can seat just 80 patrons but has received more than a million-and-a-half reservation enquiries

>> "unfair competition"). The city is big on urban renewal too and the 22@ district has become a European benchmark for regeneration, converting the El Poblenou area into an innovation hub and home to leisure and residential spaces. This is a city where gentrification feels harmonious and natural, somewhere that actually seems to cope with tourism rather well and one that has become one of the gastronomic centres of the world. I've been to Barcelona a lot in the past few years and it would appear that it's impossible to eat a bad meal here. Of course, you can eat badly anywhere, but in Barcelona you'd really have to try.

"I would like for Barcelona to continue setting the tone as a multicultural city, open to all influences, a world leader of gastronomy but also of art, design, scientific investigation," says Ferran. "But in order to do that, it would be necessary to unite all the representatives involved – administration, businesses, banks, ideas [people]." And while these are challenging times for his home city, he remains optimistic about its future. "At the moment, what has arisen have been very sporadic, exceptional situations, which will provoke a debate that is without a doubt necessary for limits not to be crossed. As for tourism, it is an undoubtable source of wealth, but at the same time you have to consider the quality of life of the people who live here. It's a complicated problem, but not an irresolvable one. I don't believe this anti-tourism activity is either adequate or effective when it comes to finding real solutions."

Does Ferran believe in Catalan independence? In Barcelona, people appear reticent to discuss it, not least for business reasons.

"The subject is again very complicated," he says, hedging his bets and sounding far less strident than he does when talking about food. "It's a very serious problem and there is no point in acting like it doesn't exist. There is, more than ever, a need for conversation on everyone's part. This could be organised by bringing people with genuine international prestige and experience in these sorts of conflicts together around a business table. We have got to a position of absolute standstill and without a desire for conversation on both sides it will be impossible to reach a solution."

Albert is also passionate in his espousal of the city and, while noncommittal on Catalan independence, is slightly less so on the anti-tourism marches that took place last year. "They may have affected business in the short term, but obviously for the good of the economy and coexistence, [I hope] it won't. In the end, everybody defends their own interests and I understand that there might be people upset because of the *turismo de borrachera* [drunk tourists]. We have to find a middle point. I think we are still missing some balance between quality and quantity when we talk about tourism here and of course the city can get too crowded. On another side, we are missing some of the big-name hotel chains in Barcelona."

The thing the brothers are most passionate about right now is Enigma, which, so far, is their most adventurous and most celebrated enterprise. Ferran describes Enigma as part tasting menu, part maze of experiences. "Enigma is a form of conclusion," he says. "It is the final thought in a wider reflection on restaurants. In this regard, we want to investigate what the limits are of gastronomic catering. Enigma hopes to be more than just a restaurant: a project which serves to ask us where, when, what and how a gastronomic experience must exist at its highest level. The name itself refers to unfamiliarity, to surprise, to the possibility of awakening all possible hopes, which will in fact be solved during the experience itself… or, on the contrary, they will provoke still greater thought.

"Cooking can be very serious and in this sense it can be fantastic. But since El Bulli, we decided that a whole series of experiential components should form a part of food in the same way that the actual ingredients would or the techniques with which they had been prepared. Among these intangible elements: a sense of humour, surprise, irony, provocation, decontextualising. They become other such ingredients which enrich the gastronomic experience."

There were no reality TV cameras on the night we visited Enigma, four months after eating at Tickets. If you're lucky enough to get a reservation, you'll secure your space with a €100 deposit, which is credited against the full cost of the meal (€220) and which is forfeited if you're a no-show. The experience is completely immersive. Ferran continually likes to say that he wants to reinvent restaurants and with Enigma he has succeeded. But then he succeeds pretty much every time he opens one. As we loitered in the anteroom we felt as though we were in a doctor's waiting room, slightly apprehensive about what we were about to gratefully receive but quietly giggling to ourselves as to the absurdity of the situation. Where on earth were we? Were we going to be handed towelling robes and led quietly towards the scales?

The room is disorientating, like a canteen designed by HR Giger

Enigma is a shrine to the protean nature of everything we put on our plates, as well as an experiential response to food in general and this food in particular. This isn't a scene restaurant and the diners are not intimidatingly hip; mostly they're a combination of the intrigued, the persistent and the rich. Yes, there are those who want to eat here because it's so difficult to get a table, but in the main the diners tend to be foodies, captivated by the brothers' exponential ability to weave culinary magic. There are no egregiously sophisticated socialites here, no slinky Russian avatars starved to near perfection, no noisy hedge-fund boys in monogrammed shirts and no fashion industry show-offs trying to find someone to look over the shoulder of (the diners don't wear sunglasses here, put it like that). Most of the people I've ever seen at Ferran Adriã's restaurants look like they're in church and Enigma is no exception, with diners staring at their plates and gratefully accepting whatever is offered to them as if they are taking communion. In most statuspheres, part of the exercise is scanning the room in order to let everyone else know that you're as special as they are – "We're in, goddammit!" – but here the other customers are incidental, mere Muggles, as none of us are here for any other reason than the food. The only narcissism comes on a plate.

The interior is even more unsettling than Tickets, being fundamentally a "technological cave" or futuristic igloo. A year after opening, Enigma is still causing ructions throughout the restaurant world, making gourmands salivate with envy and anticipation. Here, as in all their restaurants, you're asked to refrain from posting photographs on social media (but then they tried that at Soho House and look what happened there).

When you receive confirmation of your booking you are sent an access code, which you have to punch into a keypad outside the restaurant. Once inside, you feel as though you've just walked into a sci-fi movie from the Seventies – Woody Allen's *Sleeper,* maybe – as the deliberately austere surroundings look like the canteen of an international space station (it's not as well designed as Damien Hirst and Mark Hix's Pharmacy 2, in the Newport Street Gallery,

however, which, for those who haven't been, has been imagined as a *Clockwork Orange*-style chemist). The room is designed to disorientate, the crumpled metal netting on the ceiling giving the impression that you're dining in a canteen designed by HR Giger. You are meant to be unsettled. In fact, you're meant to be unsettled from the minute you look at the FAQs on the restaurant's website:

Q: How long is the Enigma experience?

A: The route in Enigma has an estimated duration of three-and-a-half hours. We suggest that if there are smokers in your party they agree smoking breaks in advance with our staff for the proper functioning of the service.

Q: I'm allergic or intolerant to gluten, lactose or some other products. Do you have any alternatives?

A: Let us know your needs when formalising your reservation and our chefs will try to adapt as much as possible following your requirements. This information should be communicated in advance.

Q: I'm vegan or I follow a strict vegetarian diet without meat or fish. Do you have any alternative for me?

A: Unfortunately, we cannot offer an alternative menu in your case, so we advise you against visiting us, since you wouldn't be having the full Enigma experience.

Q: Do you provide kids options?

A: Enigma staff advise to avoid going to the restaurant accompanied by children, as the duration of the menu and type of service are unsuitable for them, so consequently no children's menus are available. By extension, we cannot accommodate high-chair reservations.

The meal is long, although as almost all the dishes are small tapas plates, this is less onerous than it sounds. The expertise starts slowly, with various fruit juices and small individually prepared sweets – frozen sponge cake, shiso leaf with Thai grapefruit, green mandarin – which are actually quite underwhelming, encouraging you to think that maybe the restaurant has been the victim of hype. But it soon gets better, so much better that one of my dining companions – a man who has eaten in more good restaurants than most critics – said one dish was the best thing he'd ever eaten in a restaurant.

You move into a different space every 20 minutes or so – there are seven rooms in total – hopping from one ice-cold space-age table to another, speed dating your sea anemone with anchovies and Earl Grey tea, wild pigeon with pear and blackcurrant terrine with red mullet and walnut. The most intoxicating room is "*la plancha*", the fourth space you reach, a teppanyaki-inspired flat-top grill where you'll perch on bar stools before sampling cannelloni blinis, a truffled omelette and a quick-fire selection of other exotic morsels. The chefs were so quick with their hands we suspected they did close-up magic in their spare time. You end up at the end of the meal in a cocktail bar, an approximation of the now shuttered 41 Degrees, for one last drink (they offer optional wine pairings, although as the food is the focus, the wines are low-alcohol and light). Then you're softly beckoned outside, finding yourself on the pavement, fat, bewildered and happy.

"My ambition has always been the same," says Ferran. "To explore the limits of what cooking, catering, gastronomy, creativity represents. Being a great chef does not simply mean knowing the trade and the history of cooking, but being capable of building bridges towards other disciplines, as much with creative character as with other characteristics: art, design, science, enterprise…"

The chefs' hands were so quick, I suspect they did magic tricks in their spare time

All of the brothers' restaurants generate considerable press attention, although Enigma has been criticised for sacrificing culinary expertise in favour of atmosphere, which is obviously something Ferran fiercely rejects. "A few years ago we considered this, but our philosophy is always to concentrate on the food and not the spectacle. The spectacle is secondary. In this sense, Enigma takes things to the next level by introducing these elements of spectacle, but the gastronomy continues to be the principal thing. It has to be."

For Albert, Enigma is all about the mise-en-scène. "The venue is really special, as is the idea of creating gastronomic languages in different places. We eat three times a day, so to turn that into entertainment is smart. I also like the idea of small bites, because you find emotion in small bites. It's difficult to have excitement in a soup of 20 spoonfuls."

Perhaps predictably, while Enigma seems like a pinnacle of sorts, a last word, Ferran continues to plot. What's next is El Bulli redux, as this year will see the opening of El Bulli 1846, a brand-new project on the site of the original restaurant. Eighteen forty-six is not a year, but a number: the total number of dishes Ferran prepared while the original restaurant was open. Part research centre, part exhibition space and occasional restaurant, it promises to stretch the boundaries of molecular cooking even more. Barcelona, meanwhile, has perhaps seen its last Adrià opening, if Ferran can be believed. "Actually, I don't have plans to open any restaurants in Barcelona. For his part, Albert has declared that Enigma will be his final restaurant too. That said, what we do know is that life leads you via unexpected paths and that we can never know what the future holds."

Perhaps he will be able to solve what he considers to be the greatest culinary mystery, the dish that so far he has been unable to solve: hot ice cream. "This would be the 'impossible' manufacture, but the one that I'd like to be able to achieve."

It would be foolish to imagine that Ferran won't eventually find a way to heat up ice cream. (Would it be a type of gelato, maybe, which is typically stored and served at a slightly warmer temperature?) And knowing how he operates, I'm equally sure he'll come up with another bizarre environment in which to eat it. I have a suggestion: a few years ago Lou Reed was playing a gig in Gothenberg and afterwards the local promoter invited him out for a drink. Divested of his group, Reed and a friend ended up in what in those days would have been called a swanky fish restaurant. Reed and his guest were steered towards one of the tables lining a large, circular pool and then given small remote-control devices. As the pair of them were quite drunk, they were slightly bewildered by this, but were soon made aware that their food would actually be delivered on little boats, which docked on berths adjacent to their table. According to Reed's guest, the idea seemed so preposterous to the ageing punk that he started sending his boat careening wildly around the pool, capsizing the boats of other diners in the process.

It's unlikely that any of Ferran and Albert Adrià's diners would behave so badly and incomprehensibly that they'd play with their food. In the world of El Barri, food is not just a matter of life and death. It's much more serious than that. **GQ**

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Photographs by **Giampaolo Sgura** Styling by **Luke Day**

From left: Shirt, £1,205. Top, £640. Shorts, £605. Boots, £610. Socks, £140. Hat, £290.

Shorts, £640. Hat, £290. Phone case, £350.

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Clockwise from left: Shirt, £790. Hat, £225. Badge holder, £125.

Shirt, £790. Hat, £290.

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Jumper, £675. Shirt, £790. Top, £640. All by **Prada**. prada.com

From left: Shirt, £790. Skirt, £735. Shoes, £645. Socks, £110. Badge holder, £140. Phone case, £350.

Coat, £2,410. Shirt, £790. Shorts, £1,020. Boots, £550. Socks, £110. Hat, £225. Badge holder, £140. Phone case, £405. All by **Prada**. prada.com

From left: Shirt, £1,205. Jumper, £675. Shorts, £640. Boots, £610. Socks £110. Hat, £225. Badge holder, £140. Phone case, £350.

Coat, £2,410. Shirt, £790. Shorts, £640. Boots, £610. Socks, £110. Hat, £225. Badge holder, £140. Phone case, £350.

Shirt, £790. Skirt, £670. Shoes, £795. Hat, £225. Badge holder, £140. Phone case, £405.

Top, £640. Shorts, £640. Boots, £550. Socks, £110. Hat, £225. Phone case, £350. All by **Prada**. prada.com

Shirt, £790. Shorts, £1,020. Hat, £225. Badge holder, £125. All by **Prada**. prada.com

Opposite: Shirt, £790. Skirt, £670. Shoes, £795. Socks, £110. Hat, £225. Phone case, £405. All by **Prada**. prada.com

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From left: Jacket, £1,420. Shirt, £755. Tie, £140. Trousers, £528. Trainers, £675.

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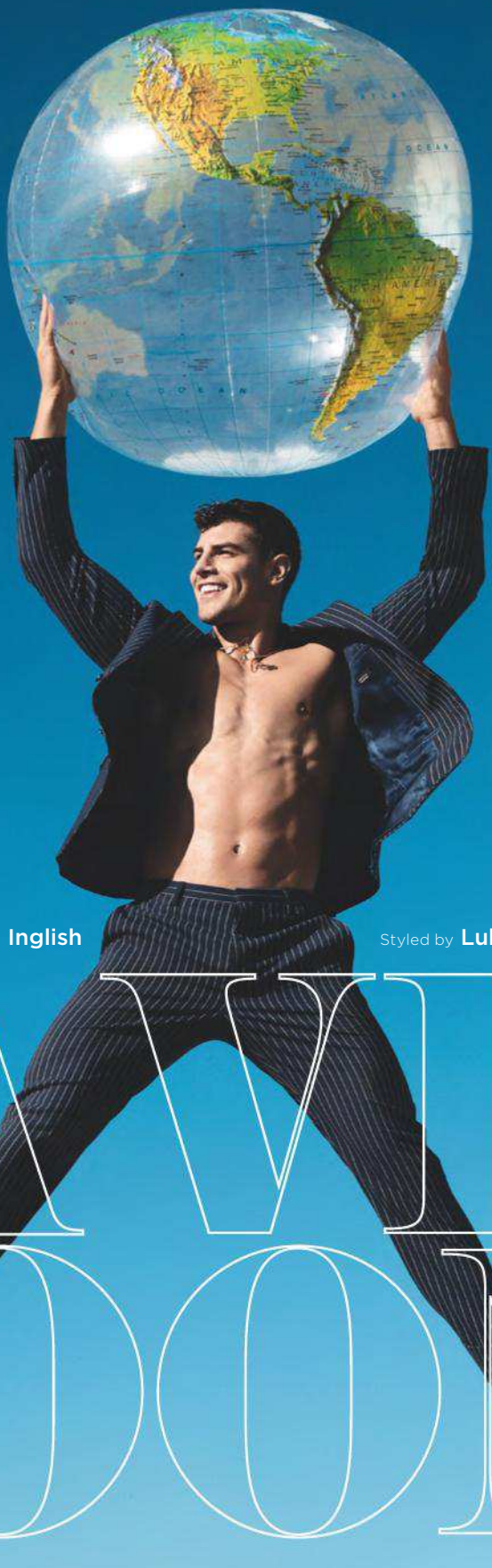

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Trousers, £665. Trainers, £675.

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Coat, £1,244. Shirt, £1,126. Trousers, £1,333. Trainers, £675. Necklace, £280. All by **Versace**. versace.com

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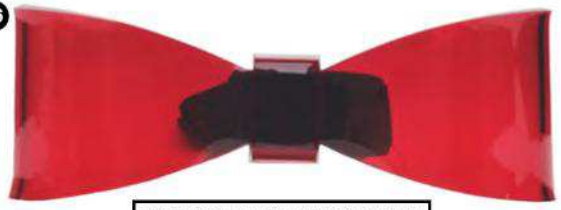
1. KA/NOA Super Light Navy Blue Hoodie piquet with tone sur tone logo embroidered and kangaroo front pocket. Innovative sew fabric realised with a patented technological sewing machine working entirely circularly and allowing to assemble the finest and most comfortable cotton yarn. Only and Exclusively Made in Italy. Visit kanoaitalia.com **2. Moonbronze** is the world's first Swiss Made decagon watch with a worldwide protected design and a 10 year warranty. The limited 222 timepieces will get you a plot on the moon. On the backside of your watch the coordinates will be engraved which makes it truly unique. Discover at moonbronze.de **3. MrQuintessential.** Men's clothes should attract attention to the best lines of a man's figure and distract from the worst. With this in mind MrQuintessential has taken the finest fabrics out there. They have used the best cotton and cashmere blend, and luxurious silk and cashmere, to create a range of lightweight knits, and tees that have perfect drape, luminosity and softness. Investment pieces that look timeless and fit perfectly. **4. U.MI-1** unique design aesthetic offers a modern interpretation of Nigerian tribes through a conscious cross-pollination between British tailoring and Japanese minimalism elements, creating thought-provoking silhouettes through creative construction. Featured is the cotton print shirt with a pleated back, the perfect addition to your Spring/Summer wardrobe. To see more visit umi1.co.uk **5. Belcori** is a Dutch eco-conscious brand with a focus on creating timeless and personal, handmade to order, European luxury products without the traditional mark ups. Available in limited quantities, hand-crafted by European craftsmen. **6. Mr. Eight** swimwear: comfortable and stylish; the perfect fit for the modern man. With whimsical prints, and bold colours you will stand out for all the right reasons. Be part of the #MREIGHTWORLD. **7. Verena Schepperheyn** is an award-winning contemporary fashion brand specialised in creating mid-range luxury products with a focus on detail, quality and material uniqueness. Shop online on shop-verenaschepperheyn.com **8. Pocket Square Club** is a distinguished accessories brand for the modern man. Delivering only the highest quality hanks, they make men look dapper, versatile, and contemporary. Each piece is exquisitely and skilfully handcrafted in some of Europe's oldest mills. **9. Original Husky** prides themselves in the versatility and timelessness of their collections. With their high-quality fabrics and ethical production process, Original Husky is your new go-to brand for everyday apparel that you will not have to stress about co-ordinating the rest of your outfit with. Take a look at their website originalhusky.com to browse their collection of minimalistic, wearable and laid-back apparel. **10. REWIND** is a French streetwear brand, inspired by 90's retro style. The brand is crucial for hip hop enthusiasts in all its disciplines mainly dance, graffiti, music and fashion. The collection "Road Rage" draws influence from the streets where road signs and vehicles are clearly visible. **11.** The **Bôhten5** Barklae and Legend gold are the new staple pieces from the fall/winter 2018 line. The new collection comes with Gold Mirror (Polarized) anti-reflective oleophobic coating (Oil resistant) while embodying high end precision and Japanese timeless design. They are made from reclaimed African Ebony and walnut wood, matte acetate front and embedded gold tone metal. Pre-order the collection for only £200 before July 1st and upgrade with complimentary prescription blue light lenses. Photo credit: Agya Oppong-Kyekyeku – @datssoaj **12.** Presenting **Ronkko Watches**, unique timepieces by watchmaker Antti Rönkkö inspired by the ancient myth of Minotaur. Only five of each are made ensuring the highest degree of exclusivity. **13. Mikka Man** is a curated collection of men's jewelry inspired and designed with an heirloom aesthetic. Mikka Man invokes a unique vision of iconic yet classic masculinity. The Moaz ID Bracelet is plated in matte black rhodium, with a hammered ID plaque and a 21cm Cuban link chain. **14. Old Captain Co.** is a Lugano based manufacturer of premium Swiss Made dress shirts for active and creative people. Their shirts are developed in a small factory in the south of Switzerland, and are built on the foundation of Swiss Made: high-quality, luxury, exclusivity and tradition. **15. altr** is a luxury men's footwear brand offering total customisation with an extensive choice of design combinations. Made in Italy, each shoe is created from over 130 handcrafted processes to your exact specification, using the finest local leathers and materials. Visit a-l-t-r.com and follow @altr_luxury_footwear on IG.

16



EXPRESSIVE RED GLOSSY €99,95
EMIL ENZ
EMILENZ.COM
IG: @EMILENZ

17

BLACK/BLACK LEATHER 42MM $75
JAMES ECK
MYJAMESECK.COM
IG: MYJAMESECK

18

GARDENER'S APRON £790
CLOH
CLOH.CO.UK
IG: @CLOH.CO

19

POCKET FOUNTAIN PEN $150
INVENTERY
INVENTERY.CO
SUPPORT@INVENTERY.CO

20

REVIVAL STEERING WHEEL BRACELET £65
THE MECHANISTS
THEMECHANISTS.COM
USE CODE "GQ" FOR FREE SHIPPING
IG: @THEMECHANISTS

21

LEATHER IPHONE CASE (FIT IPHONE 6/7/8) £114
FORTUNA TOKYO
FORTUNA-TOKYO.COM
IG: @FORTUNATOKYO

22

ELVIS BOY BROWN $1305
DANCASSAB
DANCASSAB.COM
IG: @DANCASSAB

23

SPEED WALLET $89
THE FRENCHIE CO.
THEFRENCHIE.CO

24

POLKA DOT CUBAN SHIRT £110
OTHER
OTHERUK.COM

25

STERLING SILVER PALM TREE PENDANT
CHAINED & ABLE
CHAINEDANDABLE.COM
IG: @CHAINEDANDABLE

26

LEATHER SLEEVE BOMBER JACKET
EDENCH
EDENCHNYC.COM

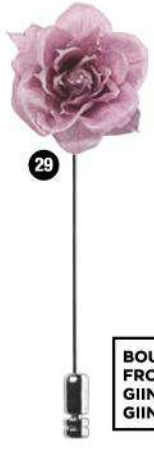
27

LIGHTWEIGHT COTTON COACH JACKET £275
DIONNEREEVES.COM
IG: @DIONNEREEVES

28

EXCALIBUR LOW TOP SUEDE/LEATHER BLACK £160
FORGE POISE
FORGEPOISE.COM
IG: @FORGEPOISEFOOTWEAR

29



BOUTONNIÈRE HANDCRAFTED FROM A NATURAL ROSE US $95
GIIN
GIIN.STYLE

30

TISSUVILLE
ILLUSIONIST 900.00 KR
TISSUVILLE.COM
IG: @TISSUVILLE

16. Emil Enz stands for new interpretation of men's accessories. Timeless design reinterpreted in the highest quality – all made in Germany. Each bowtie is minimally different in shape as each is moulded individually by hand. Their unique and modern design makes them particularly eye-catching. Business meetings, weddings or casual looks – Emil Enz bowties suit every occasion. **17. James Eck** believes that time is our most precious commodity. Created in hopes of being able to connect the value of time with a minimalist timepiece that can suit almost any style. Being conscious of your time is the reminder and message behind each piece. Shop the collection at myjameseck.com **18. Cloh** is an exciting new clothing label with a conscience. Designed for customers seeking a more ethical lifestyle. Everything is handmade in Glasgow. Garments are not mass produced; once a Cloh order is placed, the team ethically source fabric most like the original piece to recreate the garment. This means no two garments are the same. **19.** Redefined writing instruments, like these modular pocket fountain pens from **Inventery.** Precision machined from solid brass stock, they come equipped with interchangeable caps and a lengthening kit. Equal parts cavalier and contraption, these fine tools are for those who seek the classics but have an eye for contemporary design. **20.** Steering Wheel bracelet by **The Mechanists.** Cars have long been respected and admired as symbols of personal freedom, self-expression and most importantly self-empowerment. The Mechanists understand the undeniable thrill of a journey, from the start of the cold engine to the simple act of shifting gears and taking on your favourite roads. Sometimes it's better to travel than to arrive. The Mechanists pursue grace, performance and the ambition to move forward while maintaining their heritage. Made in the U.K. **21. FORTUNA Tokyo** is a Japanese luxury brand that is devoted to their "Made-in-Japan" product quality. These leather iPhone cases are handmade by skilled Japanese craftsmen and consist of the finest Nishijin Kyoto silk and Japanese leather that is flexible, smooth, and durable. It also has three card slots for convenient storage. **22. DanCassab** offers garments for men and women, who love luxury, are sure of themselves, empowered, and who also appreciate artisanal work. Cassab jackets are made from the best pieces of leather, of optimal quality, soft textures, with designs ranging from the classic to the modern. Each piece has its own personality, and is made by hand by Mexican artisans. For the brand, a jacket is an extension of the skin, a centre stage piece that may be worn at any time of the year. **23. The Frenchie Co.** is an accessories and lifestyle brand that has been improving the lives of over 28K customers worldwide with its innovative, stylish and unprecedented designs. The Frenchie Co. offers top quality products that perfectly combine style and functionality. To check out all the products you've been waiting for visit thefrenchie.co **24. Other** is a rebellious British label inspired by music, art and youth culture. Rooted in rock n roll and blending decade defining styles with street and high end sensibilities. Other redefines classic menswear staples, offering a carefully curated selection of wardrobe essentials. **25.** Sterling Silver Palm Tree Pendant Necklace by **Chained & Able.** Handmade In Britain, featuring a fine chain, ring fastening, chain length – 20 Inches. Visit chainedandable.com **26. Edench** is a New York based brand inspired by individual lifestyles and expressed through the creation of functional daily wear with a modern interpretation. **27. Dionne Reeves**, Savile Row tailor, coat-maker and menswear designer. Streetwear x tailoring – with the ability to adapt to each other has created a melting pot of bold colours and casual tailored pieces. Giving you the freedom to be confident and comfortable at the same time. View the new season Lookbook at dionnereeves.com and follow @dionnereeves on IG. **28. Forge Poise** are known for their unique design and recognisable by their unrivalled quality and craftsmanship. The Forge Poise Excalibur Low Tops are handmade from a premium Italian suede upper coupled with soft Italian leather in black and a white rubber cup-sole. The minimal silhouette features their exclusive blade heel pattern and piped toe cap. **29. GIIN** Boutonnières are created from genuine miniature roses and handcrafted in Japan to preserve their stunning brilliance. Each handmade boutonnière is a unique piece of artistic fine jewellery, the ultimate accessory to modern style with classic features. Available in eight exquisite colours. Visit giin.style **30. Tissuville** is a Luxury Scandinavian jewellery and accessories brand. Each piece has been meticulously handcrafted In Stockholm. The combination of the highest quality materials with the exclusive designs bring uniqueness to the range. The collection exudes character and vivacity for the stylish sophisticated wearer. For more information visit tissuville.com

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The Style File... Continued

31

TROPICAL PARROT PRINT
STRETCH SHIRT £65
STEELANDJELLY.COM
IG: @STEELANDJELLY

32

MEN'S BLACK STINGRAY BRACELET
WITH GOLD LOCK £191
CLARISTE JEWELRY
CLARISTE.COM
IG: @CLARISTEJEWELRY

33

THE CUSTOMISABLE N2 WALLET £42
IMOSSI LONDON
IG: @IMOSSI.LONDON

34

BLACK FLYOVER £59
GILCHRIST WATCH CO.
GWCWATCHES.COM
QUOTE GQJUN FOR 10% OFF

35

CUFFLINKS
EMER ROBERTS DESIGN
EMERROBERTS.COM
IG: @EMER_ROBERTS

36

CLASSIC BLUE & BROWN €34
SPREZZI FASHION
SPREZZI-FASHION.COM
IG: @SPREZZIFASHION

37

THEY – GRANDE DARK
CHOCOLATE IN BLACK £129
ADEXE WATCHES
ADEXE.CO.UK
IG: @ADEXEWATCHOFFICIAL

38

NO-2, NEJLIKA £175
NORTH-89
NORTH-89.COM
IG: @NORTH89OFFICIAL

39

OUIJA T-SHIRT – BLACK £28
KILL IT DEAD
KILLITDEAD.COM

40

SWS VARSITY CREW
SWEATSHIRT $60
SWIMWITHSHARKS.US
IG: @SWIMWITHSHARKSNY

41

K'ÉEWEL SLIM WOOD WALLET £25
COBAWALLET.COM
USE CODE 'GQSUMMER' FOR 15% OFF
IG: @COBAWALLET

42

THE BASSET
HOUND
HOUNDACCESSORIES.COM
IG: @HOUND_ACCESSORIES

43

SPARTAN BOXERS IN BLUE €32
SPARTANUNDERWEAR.COM
HELLO@SPARTANUNDERWEAR.COM

44

SLIM FIT CHINO SHORTS – LIGHT GREY £75
THE COTTON LONDON
THECOTTONLONDON.COM
IG: @THECOTTONLONDON
QUOTE CODEGQ FOR 25% DISCOUNT

45

IYEEZY BLACK £23.95
WAFFLE PUMP
WAFFLEPUMP.COM
IG: @WAFFLE.PUMP

31. Get ready for the sun with **Steel & Jelly**'s Spring/Summer collection. Featuring everything from abstract prints to bold floral designs, these shirts – including this limited edition one pictured, are perfect for the adventurous man! Shop the entire collection online, with 20% off for GQ readers with code GQJUN20 expires 30/06/18. **32. Clariste** is a luxury designer jewellery company founded in 2016 by Austrian designer Andreas Stifter. Their ethos is to create extraordinary collections for individualists looking to stand out of the crowd. Since childhood, Andreas has had a passion for distinctive designs and a dedication to uniqueness. These traits have formed the company's foundation, creating jewellery for those who prefer the exceptional things in life. **33.** Celebrate your individual style with this fully customisable slim minimalist wallet from **imossi london.** Machined from aluminium for durability, it will protect your cards from RFID theft and prevent card clash. The variety of interchangeable coloured straps add an element of fun while securely storing up to 10 cards including notes. And for that extra personal touch, why not have your initials engraved? **34. Gilchrist Watch Co.** is home to an unrivalled collection of unique affordable timepieces. The strikingly minimal Black Flyover from Megir boasts a leather band and calendar wheel at 4 o'clock. Four variations, £59. Shop at gwcwatches.com and for 10% off use code 'GQJUN' (expires 30/06/2018). **35. Emer Roberts Design** is an award winning Dublin based artist studio with a uniquely sculptural brand that reflects a streamlined, classic style. For the masculine and feminine personality, these architectural and art deco inspired designs are bold, contemporary and distinctly angular. **36. Sprezzi Fashion** is a young German brand creating trendsetting bracelets made from natural stone beads and sterling silver. Their one and only mission is to take your outfit to the next level, without breaking the bank. **37.** Dynamic, contemporary design with striking red second-markers. This British inspired, designer watch is curated with the London lifestyle in mind. Define your own style with 'THEY'; a unique collection of timepieces from **ADEXE watches**, a family-run, in-house establishment with watch engineering rooted into their DNA. This watch boasts an accurate and precise Japanese Movement, finished with hand-polished stainless steel, hand-engineered glass and premium, hand-selected Italian leather. 3ATM Water Resistant. Interchangeable Straps. Lifetime warranty. 10% off when you quote 'ADEXEGQ10' (expires 30/06/18). **38. North-89** is known for their functional approach to sneakers. The No-2, Nejlika features extremely breathable deconstructed perforated suede. This is the perfect summer shoe combined with breathable materials including cotton mesh and perforated leathers. **39. Kill It Dead** is a UK based clothing company that focuses on individuality and statement pieces that can be worn with pride in any setting. Their collections include bold artwork designs, as well as a more subtle classic range, this gives KID a place in any wardrobe. **40. Swim With Sharks** is a New York based lifestyle brand. Mixing a minimal, clean aesthetic with classic coastal living, they strive to provide quality clothing and accessories with timeless design. **41. Cobá Wallet.** Made using a single piece of Tzalam, one of the finest hardwoods found in the Yucatan Peninsula. Full grain leather band with a brushed copper fastener Designed to fit comfortably in your front pocket and has the capacity to fit 4-5 credit cards / ID. Also perfect as a business card holder. Custom laser engraving available on all wallets (+£4). Use code 'GQSUMMER' for 15% off (expires 30/06/2018). **42.** Australian artisan accessories by **Hound** – creators of elegant and playful bow ties for gentlemen. Man's best accessories, WOOF! Visit houndaccessories.com **43.** Protect your 'family jewels' from mobile phone radiation with these **Spartan** boxers! This French brand has developed a unique Wavestopper Technology by incorporating silver fibres within the cotton of the boxer that blocks 99% of mobile phone radiation. Starting at €32 and designed in Paris, get them online at spartanunderwear.com **44. The Cotton® London** quintessentially a British brand, prides itself on understated luxury, unmatched elegance, innovation, utilising luxurious high-end cotton fabrics, modern technology, skilled artisan craftsmanship, superb customer experience and an ethical and sustainable basis for our product line (offer expires 30/06/2018). **45. Waffle Pump** are handmade shoes tailored to perfection dedicated to producing an incredibly comfortable, colourful and cool collection of footwear. Perfect for walking on the beach, summer shopping, holidays, light workouts and much more. Grab a pair today!

46

1950'S CREW NECK T-SHIRT WHITE €49.90
MERZ B. SCHWANEN
MERZBSCHWANEN.COM

47

ERIKSON HOLDALL £249
LEWES ROAD
LEWES-ROAD.COM
IG: @LEWES_ROAD

48

ARROW ONYX BRACELET WITH 18K GOLD
$295.00
MARCOS DE ANDRADE
MARCOSDEANDRADE.COM

49

TOKYO POCKET SQUARE AND BOW TIE
NICE TIES FINISH LAST
NICETIESFINISHLAST.COM.AU
IG: @NICETIESFINISHLAST

50

NOEUD PAPILLON BORDEAUX & MARINE €35
LE PRISME BOWTIE
LEPRISMEBOWTIE.COM

51

HELMETS TEE $35/£25
LANB
LANATIVEBRAND.COM
IG: @LANATIVEBRAND

52

SAMPLE COLLECTION
KIMFY
KIMFY.COM

53

AIR ARMY BOXER BRIEF IN ORANGE
$34.00
JACK ADAMS
JACKADAMSUSA.COM

54

THE RAID $675
REVERY
REVERYNYC.COM
IG: @REVERYNYC

55

THE PIERCEN BASEBALL HAT $24
KING & FIFTH SUPPLY CO
KINGANDFIFTH.COM
GET 20% OFF - USE CODE"KFGQ5"

56

SPANISH MOONLIGHT CUFFLINK £49
WIMBLEDON CUFFLINK COMPANY
WIMBLEDONCUFFLINKS.COM
IG: @WIMBLEDONCUFFLINKCOMPANY

57

HEATHERED ROSE NECKTIE $78
KATHRINE ZEREN
KATHRINEZEREN.COM

58

HALF BAKER DENIM SHIRT €95
SKYRTAOFICELAND.COM
IG: @SKYRTAOFICELAND

59

QUICK DRAW MINIMALIST $34.99
BRYKER HYDE
BRYKERHYDE.COM

60

THE SALLY T-SHIRT £25
JEMIMASARA
JEMIMASARA.CO.UK
IG: @JEMIMASARA

61

BLUE, WHITE & RED NYLON $35.00
SOUTHERN STRAPS
SOUTHERNSTRAPS.COM
IG: @SOUTHERN.STRAPS

46. The revival of **Merz b. Schwanen** began with an idea to use authentic worker's clothes from the 1920s and iconic classics as inspiration, blending them with a modern design. Founded in 1911, today Merz b. Schwanen manufactures high-quality essentials in Germany, all made of certified organic cotton with over a century of character and history. Merz b. Schwanen seamlessly joins experience and authentic craftsmanship in each garment. Warped entirely on original loopwheeler machines, each garment is lovingly made with honest dedication. **47.** British brand **Lewes Road** offers high quality clothing and accessories, without ever compromising their environmental footprint. Pictured is the Erikson Holdall, handmade from recycled leather, a classic piece aimed to inspire your inner explorer. Visit lewes-road.com **48. Marcos De Andrade.** The Arrow Onyx Bracelet is made with 18K Gold plated charms and spacers, encrusted with Cognac Swarovski Crystals. For an even better look, take your #wristgame to the next level by stacking it with any of our other Onyx bracelets. **49.** Australian accessories brand **NTFL** was created by two best mates, for men who like to stand out in the crowd. NTFL endeavours to help all men feel confident in their clothes, especially at an occasion. Shop their bold, unique and beautiful ties and accessories at nicetiesfinishlast.com.au All items are handmade in Sydney, Australia. **50. Le Prisme Bowtie** is an innovative brand of bow ties, working on an Oeko Tex labelled fabric and with a wide range of colours, which allows you to customize your bowtie to the colours of your event. It is also the guarantee of a product made in France, by hand, and with love. Visit the site to discover the innovative range of magnetic bow ties: leprismebowtie.com **51. LANB** marries retro art, film and car culture in this Spring's collection. To view their whole collection visit lanativebrand.com **52. Kimfy** Apparel "SAMPLE" Collection is giving creators a small representation of what it's like to express Waves, Freedom, Growth and Style – Justice Denim " SAMPLE" Collection. Visit kimfy.com **53. Jack Adams** have ended discomforts with their Air Army Boxer Brief, which is exceptionally soft, comfortable and like wearing nothing at all. Designed with their original horizontal fly for quick access when nature calls and their contour pouch nestle the boys for support. The Lenzing Modal material wicks sweat away and is quick drying. Made of 95% lenzing micro modal and 5% elastane. **54. REVERY** is a luxury streetwear brand founded by Cecil Dove and Rakan Nimr. All of their garments are designed and manufactured in New York City with the pervading belief that fashion is a universal language that binds us all together. **55. King & Fifth** specialise in high quality Baseball Hats for the stylish guy. Get 20% OFF your first order with code "KFGQ5" (Expires 30/09/2018). Worldwide shipping $6. **56. Wimbledon Cufflink Company** offers unique cufflink and watch designs, which draw inspiration from classical, historical and culturally significant images, patterns and emblems. It puts a modern twist on the traditional with high quality, wearable style. Aspiration is the great driving force of the times we live in, whether this is to live better, look better, or do more for others and yourself. Whether it's for a gift, or for yourself, you cannot afford to miss this opportunity. GQ readers get an exclusive discount code with 'GQ30', expires 31/06/18. **57. Kathrine Zeren.** This heathered rose 2.75" wide necktie is ethically made in Houston, Texas from a sustainably sourced fabric, using a blend of organic cotton and recycled hemp. $78. The matching 10" pocket square is priced at $32. **58. Skyrta** is an emerging Icelandic brand for discerning men around the world. This half baker shirt is inspired by serendipity on Baker Street, from a team trip to London. Made from fine rung spun cotton developed specially for our denim shirts. Visit skyrtaoficeland.com **59.** Quick Draw Minimalist by **Bryker Hyde** is handcrafted out of the finest leather with detailed stitching throughout. Carry the things you need and access them easily with their patent pending "Quick Draw" Wallet. Easily remove any card with a single touch of your finger or thumb. Visit brykerhyde.com or email team@brykerhyde.com for more information. **60. JEMIMASARA** promotes equality, self-love, empowerment and confidence. The brand mission is to inspire ladies and gentlemen to love their genuine, unaffected and fabulous self. JEMIMASARA sells clothing, jewellery, bags, prints and more. All clothing is locally screen printed in the U.K. Shop online at jemimasara.co.uk Use promo code 'GQ18' for 10% off your order (expires 1/09/18). For further information email info@jemimasara.co.uk **61. Southern Straps** for Apple Watch: A single piece of nylon which has been doubled over, sealed and stitched – creating a comfortable yet durable Apple Watch band with an unrivalled warranty.

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TO ADVERTISE CALL 020 7499 9080 X3705

The Style File... Continued

62

PORTOFINO LINEN
SHIRT, BLUE MELANGE, £125
LUCA FALONI
LUCAFALONI.COM

63

AK-05 CROP SELVEDGE JEANS $165
AKINGSNY
AKINGSNY.COM

64

ORIGINAL COLLECTION 44MM $100
TIPE WATCHES
TIPEWATCHES.COM
FB: TIPE WATCHES
IG: @TIPEWATCHES

65

EXENTRI® WALLET
MOSAIC BROWN
€54.95
EXENTRI.COM
IG: @EXENTRIWALLETS

66

HAIRY HARRY £54,50
PIGHEN.COM
IG: @PIGANDHEN

67

BOXER BRIEFS £14-27
HOMMES
HOMMES.CO.UK
IG:@HOMMESLONDON

68

OXBLOOD OXFORDS $425
SCARZZA.COM
IG: @SCARZZASHOES

69

"MONEY CAN'T BUY" SLIM WALLET £151
NETTOMIND
NETTOMIND.COM

70

GOLDLINK PRINT TEE £25
MADE BY LIZZY
MADEBYLIZZY.COM
IG: @MADE_BY_LIZZY

71

HOUND AND THISTLE
POCKET SQUARE £45
ROBERTTO'S
ROBERTTOS.COM

72

LUDLOW, PYTHON CARDHOLDER £95
ALLEN ST.
ALLEN-ST.COM
IG: @ALLENST.PARIS

73

CATANIA BLACK AND EMILIA BLUE CASES £95
BUTTI.CO.UK
IG: @BUTTIEYEWEAR

74

THE ROMAN DUFFLE $379 AUD
WANDERERS TRAVEL CO
WANDERERSTRAVELCO.COM
IG: @WANDERERSTRAVELCO

62. This iconic linen shirt by **Luca Faloni** is crafted in Northern Italy using breathable artisanal linen from the oldest mills in the country. This elegant design features a modern fit and is finished with distinguished mother of pearl buttons. Free worldwide delivery and returns available. lucafaloni.com **63. AKINGSNY.** Our go to premium denim brand. Cut from the finest Japanese selvedge denim with satin lined pockets, how can you resist? Shop now akingsny.com **64. Tipe Watches** was founded on the belief that you should be able to afford a stylish watch that can go everywhere with you. The Original Collection has a 44mm case crafted of 316L marine grade stainless steel, is powered by a Japanese quartz movement, and has interchangeable 100% genuine leather and stainless steel straps. Check them out at tipewatches.com **65. Exentri Wallet** with RFID protection. Easy access to cards. Separate compartment for bills and receipts. Genuine leather. Stainless steel lock. Norwegian design. Delivered in an elegant box. Choose from a wide range of colours and textures at exentri.com **66.** The Dutch brand **Pig&Hen** produces handmade bracelets in Amsterdam. By using stainless steel shackles and shiprope you'll have a unique piece which will last a lifetime. Shop the complete collection at pighen.com **67. Hommes** blends classic continental design with quintessentially British styling. The flagship underwear range, hand constructed in the UK uses only premium fabrics including fast cooling stretch Meryl and luxury soft cotton jersey to guarantee superior comfort and support with eye-catching good looks. **68.** Classic black oxfords, to houndstooth loafers or these stunning Oxblood Oxfords – **Scarzza** handcrafts each pair to your preference, as you would with a tailored suit. These custom shoes are skilfully handcrafted in Italy by experienced artisans and are made with only the finest leathers. **69. NETTOMIND** is a collaboration of several designers, artists, craftsman and other professionals from different parts of the world. Established in Seattle. NETTOMIND create truly unique and innovative products. The "Money Can't Buy" ultra slim and compact wallet can encase up to eight cards and has enough space for cash. Hidden magnets keep the wallet closed. Easy access to cards, without opening the wallet. The wallet, reinvented! **70. Made By Lizzy** is a British brand culminating a fusion of African and Western fashion, which in turn is created into unisex streetwear and accessories. Bespoke items are available on request. **71.** Brilliant pocket squares for brilliant people **Robertto's** represents the zenith of pocket square craftsmanship, making no compromise when it comes to luxury and quality. Only the finest fabrics are selected for Robertto's range of artisanal pocket squares – hand-rolled, made in Italy, and perfected for a global audience. **72. Allen St.** Born in NYC, designed in Paris. Inspired by travel and fortunate human encounters, Allen Street's leather goods are a combination of the exotic and the classic. Handcrafted in France at the brand's private atelier, each product is the result of painstaking traditional craftsmanship and premium materials. **73.** Encased in beautiful Italian leather, **Butti** eyewear cases feature silk lined aerospace aluminium cores for unparalleled protection and incorporate a matching leather pull tab for easy removal of your glasses. Handmade in the UK, the cases are available for both men and women in a variety of colours. **74. Wanderers Travel Co** are committed to creating the most durable, practical and luxurious products. Crafted from the softest full grain leather, their designs are inspired by traveling distant lands, the people they meet and the rich history of this world. These bags are made for Wandering.

Beach Boys...

1

SWIMMER GIA VERSION 1 PRINT $175/ £120
EVEREST ISLES
EVERESTISLES.COM
MATCHESFASHION.COM

2

PATER ET FILIUS
EL ANDALÙZ BLUE 209 CHF
PATERFILIUS.COM
IG: @PATERFILIUS

3

MICROLITH PINK BREEZY $85
WEEKENDS AT
WEEKENDSAT.COM
IG: @WEEKENDS_AT

4

MEXICAN PRINT NOMAD SWIM SHORT £125
NICOLAS ALEXANDER
NICOLASALEXANDERSWIMWEAR.COM
IG:@NICOLASALEXANDERSWIMWEAR

5

SAINT-TROPEZ £70
RWENZORI.COM.AU
IG: @RWENZORI.SWIM

6

SINK SWIMWEAR
SIGNATURE KHAKI WITH
MATTE BLACK EDITION £65
INKSWIMWEAR.COM
IG: @SINKSWIMWEAR

7

VIETRI SAND €85
TYCHESWIMWEAR.COM
IG: @TYCHE.SWIMWEAR

8

KAELIN SWIM SHORTS £50
INDEPENDENT LEADERS
INDEPENDENT-LEADERS.COM
IG: @INDLEADERS

9

BLUE SEA URCHIN £85
BUNKS
BUNKSTRUNKS.COM
IG: @BUNKSTRUNKS

10

SIGNATURE POP PINK £200
PRATT LONDON
PRATTLONDON.COM
IG: @PRATTLONDON

11

ROO TRUNK $95
THETROPICS.CO
IG: @THETROPICS.CO

12

TURKUOISE SWIM TRUNK $98.00
OKAICOS
OKAICOS.COM
IG: @OKAICOS

1. Everest Isles raises awareness about climate change by implementing sustainable production practices, working with eco-friendly textiles and manufacturing products to last. This ECONYL® swim trunk is made from 100% regenerated nylon from recovered fishing nets and features corrosion-resistant cordage ends. Available from matchesfashion.com **2. PATER et FILIUS** is an independant luxury brand based in Zurich, Switzerland and offers a selection of colourful men's intimates and leisure trousers, putting the focus on their signature prints inspired by tile-patterns. You will love their thin-legged, super comfortable cotton trousers – for leisurely lounging about, making the coolest impression at the beach as well as sleeping in. Wear them any way you want. **3. Weekends at** is an up and coming concept water-wear from Tel Aviv. Founded by an Olympic swimmer and two designers and worn by Olympic Athletes and studs all over the world. You just have to visit and experience their online shop and see the stories behind the designs. Carefully designed cuts, stunning prints, and endless love for details. **4. Nicolas Alexander** is a luxury designer men's swimwear brand for the ambitious and adventurous that refuse to blend in. The Debut SS18 Modern Nomad Collection consists of the carefully crafted mid-length Nomad swim short, which is available in 8 vibrant and distinctive prints as well as 3 striking block colours. If you are looking to stand out this summer then check out Nicolas Alexander at nicolasalexanderswimwear.com **5. Rwenzori** is Australian Designed, European Inspired. Luxury swim shorts featuring aerial and travel imagery. Quality make featuring signature zippers and stainless steel adjustable side buckles. More than your average swim shorts. Free UK shipping for GQ readers, enter "GQfreeship" **6. Sink Swimwear** Signature Khaki with Matte Black are a staple item when you want an exemplary resort wear garment, but luxury finesse. With their bespoke zip pockets at the sides and hidden to the rear, they are unlike any other swim shorts. The fit on Sink Swimwear are second to none, and you will for sure return for many more colour options. **7.** Italian brand **Tyche** designs high quality ultralight swimwear, with classic lines and tailor fits. Made in Italy with a meticulous attention to details and designs inspired by the Italian timeless style. Shop the collection at tycheswimwear.com **8. Independent Leaders** is a Brazilian inspired lifestyle brand that adopted the independent spirit of its people, defined by its freedom. They use designs that speak boldly and reflect the free-spirited vibe of Brazil's greatest city Rio. **9. BUNKS** are swimwear for boys and men made using designs unique to the brand, pictured is the Sea Urchin range. Lightweight and fast-drying for carefree days in the sun. To shop for your holiday visit bunkstrunks.com and use offer code GQ18 until 30/06/18 to receive free postage. For inspiration follow @bunkstrunks on IG. **10.** Loud and outrageous **Pratt London** is redefining the luxury beach lifestyle. Empowering men to be rebellious and extravagant, allowing the stylish men to express themselves by wearing unique eclectic beach wear inspired by iconic Pop Art. View the collection prattlondon.com **11. The Tropics** is more than just men's swim trunks. It's a lifestyle that represents commitment to a more sustainable future. Plastic is destroying the ecosystems of our planet and it's up to us to make a change. Each trunk is made out of 10-11 recycled plastic bottles that could have possibly ended up in our oceans and includes a 4-way stretch that is made to move with you. **12.** Inspired by family, tradition and Turks & Caicos, **Okaicos** provide optimal movement and are perfect for beach activities or lounging. They're finished with a nautical waistband accent so you can feel put together even when you're not at the beach.

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The Beach Boys... Continued

13

THE TROPIC SWIMS €89.00
PODENCO EIVISSA
PODENCOEIVISSA.COM
IG: @PODENCOEIVISSAOFFICIAL

14

CLIPPER YELLOW £185
HEMINGSWORTH AT FORTNUM & MASON
HEMINGSWORTH.COM
IG: @HEMINGSWORTH

15

IT IS, SWIMSHORTS €180
TOMADAM.FR
IG: @TOMADAM_OFFICIAL

16

GREENGOS £40
APRES
THEAPRESLIFE.COM
IG: @THEAPRESLIFE

17

SHIBORI PRINT CLUB BRIEF
WALDENATHLETIC.COM
IG: @WALDENATHLETIC

18

REGATTA WHITE SHACKLE BRACELET $43
SAILSWAG.COM
IG: @SAILSWAG

13. Enter the word 'DISCOUNT' at checkout to receive 10% off your order (expires – 2/06/2018). **Podenco Eivissa** is an independent brand that oozes Mediterranean style. Born on the island of Ibiza, this luxury brand offers a selection of printed mid thigh length, colourful swim shorts and printed cotton shirts that will keep your look fresh for summer. **14. Hemingsworth** are producers of Luxury British menswear, impeccably crafted and exquisitely designed for the modern Globetrotter. Proudly made in London, their Clipper swim-short consists of a 29-signature piece pattern that goes through 17 hand-finished stages before it leaves their factory. Now available at Fortnum & Mason. **15. tom àdam** introduces you to a new and refined take on men's underwear & swimwear. Contemporary with a twist. Designed in Paris. **16.** Designed specifically to suit the modern, active man for a full-throttle summer holiday. **Apres** swim shorts are tailored to make you look like a cover-star with unique designs to turn heads at the beach and the bar. Shop the collection at theapreslife.com **17. Walden Outdoor Athletic** produces swimwear, apparel, and accessories using fabrics produced from recycled plastics. The California based company is dedicated to preserving marine habitats and donates a portion of profits to environmental causes. They offer worldwide shipping on all purchases. **18. Sail Swag™** is a sailing-themed fashion accessories and lifestyle brand that is inspired by the love of the open water and a passion for sailing. Their products are designed in Canada and made using authentic sailing materials. The Regatta Shackle Bracelet embraces a clean and simple, yet athletic design for the passionate sailor, available in various colours and sizes. Available at sailswag.com and for more information email info@sailswag.com

Timely Fashion...

1

DISCOVERY BROWN VINTAGE $99 AUD
PETER DANIEL
PETERDANIEL.COM.AU
IG: @PETERDANIELOFFICIAL

2

WILLIAM WOOD WATCHES
CHIVALROUS COLLECTION £299
WILLIAMWOODWATCHES.COM
IG: @WILLIAMWOODWATCHES

3

ORIGINAL MONARCH £74.99
AION WATCH COMPANY
AIONWATCHCO.COM
IG: @AIONWATCHES

4

THE HEXAGON
HX 02 – $120
CGENSTONE
CGENSTONE.COM
IG: @CGENSTONE

5

CAMEL BROWN REMBRANDT $94.00
WORTELBOER WATCH
WORTELBOERWATCH.COM
IG: @WORTELBOERWATCH

6

OCEAN NAVIGATOR £899
OCEAN CRAWLER WATCH CO.
OCEANCRAWLER.COM
IG: @OCEANCRAWLERWATCHCO

7

CHRONOMASTER PILOT
WATCH £150
BLENHEIM LONDON*
BLENHEIMWATCH.COM
FB: /BLENHEIMWATCH
IG: @BLENHEIMLONDON

8

SANDALWOOD £60.00
NARWOOD
NARWOOD.COM

9

SAGRADA FAMILIA COLLECTION $105
TOROLUNA.COM
IG: @TORO_LUNA_WATCHES

1. The **Peter Daniel** brand has progressed from its initial Genesis Collection and is now launching the Discovery Range on KickStarter this April. Peter Daniel envisions designing and producing watches and accessories that create balance and harmony of style and functionality to emphasise one's lifestyle. Proudly designed in Brisbane, Australia. Find Peter Daniel's full lifestyle accessories and wrist-wear range on peterdaniel.com.au **2.** Placed in the back of every **William Wood** watch is a limited edition commemorative coin. Each coin is made from brass which is the same metal used in a vintage British firefighter's helmet. William Wood was the name of the founders late grandfather who served in the British Fire Service for over 25 years. They donate up to 50% of their profits to the Fire Fighters Charity in the UK. **3. Aion Watch Company** have one clear ambition, to combine simplistic design and quality materials to create timeless watches that can be worn at any occasion. Buy online at aionwatchco.com **4. Cgenstone.** The Hexagon watch Structure offers a modern twist on the classic design, That will draw attention and let you express your individuality. The HX Has Geometrical Patterned Dial perfectly accentuates The original hexagon frame making this timepiece immediately recognizable and fit for even the most exclusive occasions. See more at Cgenstone.com **5.** The **Wortelboer Watch** brand was born out of the need to help impoverished children around the world to get better access to education, health, and resources. A Wortelboer watch helps you connect with the timeless virtue of bringing positive change to our world. **6. Ocean Crawler**'s new Ocean Navigator is a patented dive watch using a unique three crown case, Sapphire Bezel, Internal Solar Compass and an automatic Swiss movement. **7. Blenheim Watch.** Inspired by aviation control panels, the Pilot watch features a fully functional chronometer. Premium British design, Swiss heart. Funded from kickstarter and loved by an international customer base. Go Beyond with a Blenheim watch, 10% off your order with 'GQ18' (until stocks last). **8. Narwood** – a watch created for a sustainable future. By working alongside charities, Narwood is able to plant a tree in areas affected by deforestation for every product sold. Made from 100% dark Sandalwood, make a statement with this nature inspired timepiece. Quote code GQ for 15% off (expires 05/06/2018). Available from £60 at narwood.com **9.** The Sagrada Familia Collection by **Toro Luna Watches** features the iconic Sagrada Familia Church in Barcelona, which is carefully engraved on the caseback of the watch. It also features a blue dial, which represents the ceramic tiles that are found at Park Güell. Designed by Brett Casaccio, this piece is truly a conversation starter.

10

DANDYLINE €419
MAKELØS
MAKELOS.DE

11

KENSINGTON WATCH WITH ROSEWOOD STRAP $229
MONSIEUR WATCH CO.
MONSIEURWATCHCO.COM
IG: @MONSIEURWATCHCO

12

URBAN MYSTIQUE CHRONOGRAPH
UNDONE
UNDONE.COM
IG: @UNDONEWATCHES

13

MODEST GREY £404
BLEAU WATCHES
IG: @BLEAUWATCHES
BLEAUWATCHES.COM

14

PHOBOS €119
GRAVITHIN
GRAVITHIN.COM
IG: @GRAVITHIN

15

THE SPIRE $350
FIN WATCHES
FINWATCHES.COM
IG: @FINWATCHES

16

CHOTOVELLI AVIATION AIRLINER 3300-11
CHOTOVELLI & FIGLI WATCH CO.
CHOTOVELLI.COM

17

LA CRÈME $250
MARGAUX & CAMILLA
MARGAUXANDCAMILLA.COM
IG: @MARGAUXANDCAMILLA

18

INCEPTION WATCH FROM €659
LYTT LABS
LYTTLABS.COM
IG/FB: @LYTTLABS

19

THE HEITIS CHRONOGRAPH $199
HEITISWATCH.COM
IG: @HEITISWATCH

20

4D CONCRETE WATCH AUTOMATIC
SIGNATURE BRASS $860
22DESIGNSTUDIO.NET
IG: @22DESIGNSTUDIO

21

THE TOC WATCH
ULYSSES SATURN BLACK €259
THETOCWATCH.COM
IG: @THETOCWATCH

10. Makeløs. The DANDYLINE is inspired by historical dandy, a man of simple, refined elegance. They have combined very high-quality materials in an inconspicuous design. In addition, they have found a way to offer top quality materials at low prices. €419 at makelos.de or email team@makelos.de for more information. **11. Monsieur Watch Company** is a Canadian company that started with one simple goal of creating a uniquely, timeless product. Their quality is of the highest standards, from the sapphire crystal glass all the way down to the custom stainless steel case. The brand ethos is rooted back to a time where detail, originality and design where not compromised by features, allowing their beautiful simplicity to reign king. Let's bring back class. Bring back character. Bring back time. Use code "GQ20" to receive 20% off you entire order and receive FREE shipping (Expires 08/31/2018). Visit monsieurwatchco.com **12. UNDONE** is the world's leading watch label in customisation founded by a team of dedicated watch industry veterans. The core philosophy of the company is enabling everyone from all walks of life to create their unique personalised watch at a great value without sacrificing quality. The production of all UNDONE products is made in-house, allowing their team to have full control over every aspect that goes into the making of their unique watches. **13. Bleau Watches** is a young Australian brand with a focus on traditional mechanical dress watches with Swiss movements. Using high quality materials such as alligator straps, enamel dials and flame-blued hands they don't compromise on the overall value proposition. The Modest range has three colour options and start at £404, purchase direct on their website bleauwatches.com for enquiries email info@bleauwatches.com **14.** The **Gravithin** line is inspired by the natural satellites in the universe, combining both classical and minimal features for a versatile and modern timepiece. Discover theSatellites Series and start a new adventurous journey and reach for the stars. **15. Fin Watches.** Your time is valuable – your watch should speak to that. The Spire's unique red 24-hour hand counts down the hours of the day, reminding you to make every second count. Modern philosophy wrapped in a classic design, the Spire by Fin Watches is available for pre-orders for $350. **16. Chotovelli & Figli Watch Company** was established in 2005 producing watches that are inspired by the gauges you would find in the aviation industry as well as on the speedometers in Italian made cars. New or old, an Aviation watch must be legible, tough, accurate and reliable, with extra points awarded if it looks good riding the sleeve of a flight jacket. This 3300 Series hits those marks across a wide spectrum of aeronautic styles and uses. **17. Margaux & Camilla**, a brother-sister design team, brings a new twist to watch design. Fusing Alcantara, ambient lighting, sapphire glass and a quality Swiss Movement to create a watch that is both easy on the eye and wallet – without compromising on craftsmanship! Visit margauxandcamilla.com **18. Lytt Labs.** Inspired by urban environments, the Inception boasts a technical design with beautiful details. A truly modern timepiece that uses rotating discs and fixed anodised indicators to display the time, with hand placed chrome markers on the turbine style outer dial. Housed in the unique and striking cushion shaped casing with sapphire crystal and integrated strap fixtures, the Inception is available with a steel or gun metal PVD casing in four colours. **19. Heitis** is a micro brand from New York that creates hand assembled timepieces. Their timepieces use swiss movements, sapphire glass and other quality components to offer unparalleled value at their price points. Each watch comes with a genuine leather strap, as well as your choice of a 2nd interchangeable strap. Visit Heitiswatch.com for options. **20.** Since 2007, **22 Design Studio** has handcrafted concrete matter to create personal accessories inspired by architecture and urban living. Their latest design – 4D Concrete Watch Automatic brings architecture to life on your wrist, displaying time's passage through an exquisitely crafted space. **21.** Make the right statement and tailor a style that suits your personality. **Toc** specialises in retro styled mechanical watches and have customers in 37 countries. With classic styling and high quality materials like sapphire crystal, its no surprise they are getting noticed fast. Prices from €199 with free shipping.

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The Modern Man...

1. Take your music outside thanks to the **KitSound** Diggit Speaker. Stick it in the ground with its removable stake feature, play 360° sound via Bluetooth, and never worry about the Great British weather with its IP55 water and sand resistance rating. RRP £39.99. Available from **kitsound.co.uk** and **Amazon.co.uk #GODIGGIT**

2. If you're looking to keep your iPhone stylishly protected, **Gear4** Knightsbridge provides impeccable impact resistance from 6 feet. Made from genuine leather, hand wrapped over patented D30® impact absorbing material, this case is light, slim and refined. £49.99 at **gear4.com**

3. BAK London have created a range of elegant leather phone cases and accessories. Handcrafted from premium lightweight materials, they are available in a variety of stylish colours and textures such as the featured purple litchi leather iPhone X case (£45) and card holder (£25). Use Code 'GQMAG15' at checkout for 15% discount (expires 31/07/2018) **baklondon.com** IG: **@baklondon**

4. Vibes are far from traditional geeky foam earplugs. Virtually invisible when worn, Vibes decrease volume levels, while still allowing you to hear clearly. Wear them discreetly at concerts, sporting events, or clubs, because no man looks good with bright foam earplugs sticking out of their head. Visit **Amazon** to purchase.

5. Swedish headphone developer **Jays** recently launched one of the world's smallest wireless earphones with the impressive battery life of 12 hours. a-Six Wireless features CNC milled aluminium housing and trouble-free wireless connection. Now available at **jaysheadphones.com** with free worldwide shipping.

6. JULIVO-design's fantastic collections of dog leashes and collars are all lovingly handmade in Berlin, Germany. Customisation available to suit all requirements. A small part of each sale is donated to animal welfare charities. Visit **julivo-design.de** and use code "GQ-2018" to receive a 10% discount on your order (expiries 31/08/2018).

7. Founded in 1998, **OTTERBOX** is the No. 1 selling case for smartphones in the U.S. and a global leader in mobile device protection. OtterBox is passionate about using their expertise in engineering and rigorous testing to craft products to protect your mobile world. Stylish protection for your everyday life – visit **otterbox.co.uk**

8. Oss Bikes. These beautifully designed Swedish adult kick scooters are perfect for the morning school run or the daily commute and with larger wheels you can easily go over uneven surfaces like a dirt path or cobblestone. £219 (incl. shipping) at **ossbikes.com**

Fix Up Look Sharp...

1. Urban Jack's range of naturally enriched Shave and Skincare products will make you rethink your daily regime. Crafted in the UK try their Revolution Shave Serum which will deliver an unbelievably super close, super smooth looking finish. It's time to turn a chore into a pleasure. Use code 'JACKGQ' for 15% discount on the range at **urbanjack.com** (expires 31/07/2018).

2. Anti-Vice Skin Solutions for Men. **GOA Skincare** is pioneering lifestyle dedicated skin solutions and leading the charge with products tailored for men's skin. The products reduce the appearance of aging caused by excess habits like alcohol, fatigue and stress. Made in California with organic, high-grade active ingredients, the products boast no dilution in water. Result driven, multi-purpose solutions which enrich the lives of men who want to obtain healthy looking skin without sacrificing the habits that define them. Product Shown: Facial Fuel Recovery Scrub, £35, at **goaskincare.com**

3. Percy Nobleman grooming products feel authentic, nostalgic, yet familiar. This Recovery Balm is the perfect oil control moisturiser and a unique one-of-a-kind after shave balm, containing soothing natural active ingredients. This balm helps to retain moisture and also protects against the signs of ageing. Keep your skin in check once and for all! Visit **percynobleman.com** and follow IG **@ percynobleman**

4. Milano Cento HIM. This classic, Italian inspired men's fragrance – with its twist on the traditional citrus, herbaceous and woody style is available nationwide in selected stockists. The range includes a 100ml EDT at £49.50, 50ml EDT at £29.50, alcohol free deodorant stick at £15.00 and a luxurious 150ml body wash at £12.50. Look out for the launch of a candle later this year. Visit **milanocento.com** to locate your nearest stockist.

5. TOPPBOX is a monthly personalised grooming discovery box for men. Each month, you'll receive an assortment 4-5 premium grooming products ranging from handsome hair styling to masculine skincare, helping you discover products you love and complete your grooming routine. Ships monthly, bi-monthly or quarterly. Only £19 + P&P, £50 to £70 value in every box. Visit **toppbox.co.uk** and follow IG **@toppbox**

6. A fresh direction for men's natural grooming and skincare, these guys strive to provide health-conscious products with an eco-ethos throughout. This **UPROAR** natural deodorant is aluminium-free, and combines a citrus hit with woody notes. Read their antiperspirant blog: **uproarbrand.com** – **@uproarbrand** on IG. Also available in ASOS.

7. Meet Maame Balm handmade by **Ashanti Cosmetics.** Created to smoothen the feel of skin at its roughest, this multipurpose body grease will lessen the appearance of those ashy patches, chapped lips, cracked heels and whatnot. Packed with 100% natural, organic and vegan ingredients Maame balm is a luxurious solution to hydrate with moisture and to encourage smooth and perfect feeling skin. Visit **ashanticosmeticsltd.com** for more information and to purchase. GQ readers get 10% discount with code '#GQ' (expires 30/06/18).

8. Since 1854, **Taylor of Old Bond Street** have produced and sold the finest in Luxury Men's Grooming Products and accessories, creating a brand which is synonymous with British style and quality. Visit their store at 74 Jermyn Street, St James's, London, SW1Y 6NP, call **020 7930 5544** or visit them at **tayloroldbondst.co.uk**

9. Puggerino's male grooming range, created by an independent company in Liverpool has been used and approved by Barbers across the country. Supreme Cream is the Don Corleone of the range with a matte finish and excellent looking hold; crafted by Barbers with the everyday in mind. The growing range of perfectly blended beard oils – with all natural ingredients – includes the signature California scent with sandalwood and coconut, an ideal night-time formula. Full range available at **puggerinos.com**

10. If you would like to take your daily shave from seemingly tedious and mundane to being a completely surreal and incredible experience; **Prohibition Style** Shaving Soaps are what you should be reaching for. Their prohibition-era based cocktail scents will awaken your senses and the top quality ingredients will leave skin feeling moisturised. No need to go to the barber to experience the best shave of your life just go to **prohibitionstyle.com** and try one of their many amazing shaving soaps.

11. Urban Knights Co. want to armour the modern man with their premium quality, handcrafted hair, skin and shaving essentials. Their beard balm shown is a super-lightweight moisturiser that improves the appearance of damaged hair and dry skin while also helping to keep your pores feeling clog free. For a long-lasting shine visit **urbanknights.co** or follow IG **@urbanknights_co**

12. MR. Jamie Stevens. MR. Disguise Spray, £18.00. A concealer for men that delivers colour pigments directly onto the scalp for instant coverage, blending seamlessly with your natural colour. The quick-fix spray gives the appearance of thicker hair and uses water resistant polymers to help prevent colour from running. Choose from three colours to suit from dark blonde to black hair. Visit **mrjamiestevens.com**

13. The Nordic success **Nõberu of Sweden** are dedicated to more than just selling quality products – they want to change the market and the way society thinks about men's grooming. The hair series contains everything from waxes, shampoos to volumizing sprays and more. Visit **noberu.se**

14. The Masamune by **Tatara Razors** is a premium safety razor fashioned to transmit purity, elegance whilst ensuring a smooth and precise shave. Made of stainless steel to ensure a lifetime shaving, hand finished and engraved with numbered edition. Priced at £131, visit **tatararazors.com**

15. Urban Gentleman represent the lifestyle and culture of the modern day man. They are a movement for the unorthodox. The brand encourages expressing your individuality and existence (being), and are huge advocates of looking and feeling empowered. Keep your hair and beard slick and suave this summer with Urban Gentleman. Find this Passionfruit Pomade and other products at **urbangentleman.co.uk**

16. Peluzzi Organica collections are masterly crafted of superior botanical ingredients and are designed to provide a pleasurable grooming experience. Their Blue Tansy Lemongrass Wet Shaving Kit is a luxurious fusion of aromatic, dynamic, and high-performing botanicals, a must have for a flawless, clean, and refined looking appearance. Use discount code 'GQMPO' for 10% off (expires 30/09/2018) available at **peluzziorganica.com**

17. When **Ego Soap Company** developed this product line, no detail was compromised. From the award winning packaging to the treatment based products, Ego Soap Company knocked it out of the park. This handcrafted beard balm is made with premium natural and organic oils, packed full of vitamins and antioxidants. Healthy looking skin and hair are the underpinning for an EGO. International orders shop **etsy.com/shop/EgoSoapCompany** US orders shop **EgoSoapCompany.com**

18. Black Label Grooming introduces The Matte Pack, the ultimate styling essentials pack. Includes: 1 Black Mist, 1 Shape Paste, 1 Craft Clay and 1 Profile Putty. Up your grooming game with The Matte Pack! Visit **blacklabelgrooming.com**

19. Prefer to keep things simple? **Charlie Dapper New York** is the go-to premium hair and beard grooming line for men who want to achieve their desired look with just one or two products. They also offer complimentary grooming and style advice from their team of experts. GQ readers save 20% with code "GQ20" at **charliedapper.com** (expires 31/06/18).

20. Create a hairstyle which lasts throughout the day – The hair wax by Friedrich **Van Beesley** provides you with a long-lasting hold and natural matte finish. Its unique formula contains hair nourishing ingredients such as argan oil and hydrolyzed wheat protein. Go visit **van-beesley.com** and use the discount code "GQVB" (expires 01/07/2018) to find out more about these handcrafted hair products from Germany. **van-beesley.com**

21. Drifter's Gin + Tonic Shave Bar and Rock + Roll Revival Body Soap are shaking up the apothecary scene this summer. Made with unique ingredients like Few Spirits Gin, volcanic ash, and charcoal, these all-natural soap and shave bars are ready to modernise your grooming routine. G+T $12, R+R $8 from **driftergrooming.com**

22. Geo. F. Trumper are proud to still be recognised as producing sumptuous grooming products for gentlemen. A gift from the prestigious range of Trumper fragrances, toiletries or quality grooming requisites will bring cheer and healthy looking radiance to a gentleman's skin. Explore the wonders of being surrounded by beautiful Mahogany display cases and booths at the flagship Mayfair and St James's shops, visit **trumpers.com** or call **020 7272 1765** to find out more.

23. Dekke Hud Skincare from California was founded to provide an easy skincare solution for men who find it too complex or difficult to take care of their skin. Dekke Hud Skincare's All Day Oil Control Mask contains the right balance of natural herbs and oils to help neutralise the appearance of oily skin, whilst deeply hydrating. Their high-quality bio-cellulose sheet mask takes away the everyday lengthy skincare routines and replaces it with instant looking results. For more information visit **dekkehud.com**

24. Powerful, pioneering, and progressive, **Zousz** aims to reinvent a solely contemporary approach to luxury men's grooming, fashion, and accessories. Eclectic, sophisticated, classy, and romantic – Zousz products represent the combination of uniqueness and luxury craftsmanship and are unparalleled for their quality and attention to detail. For more information visit **zousz.com**

25. Combining a French sense of quality and an authentic professional know-how, **Tonsor&Cie** grooming range is elaborated by their own barbers. Their new Pomade allows you to easily shape all your hairstyles. 20% off on **tonsor-cie.com** with discount code GQUK until 03/06/18.

26. The Apothecary believes in seamlessly complementing the essence of the modern man, easing their grooming routines with convenience and quality crafted goods. Thus, bringing a line of easy-to-use solid cologne in a variety of scents, cased in an ultra-portable tin and all handmade in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Visit **theapothecarymalaysia.com**

27. Vitabiotics. Whether you're a working dad or a fitness enthusiast, Wellman Energy is perfect for those leading hectic lives. The great tasting refreshing drink includes vitamins B6 and B12, magnesium and iron which contribute to normal energy release and help to reduce tiredness and fatigue. With specialist nutrients including Siberian Ginseng extract and Co-Q10, the easy to carry effervescent tablets also include vitamin C and zinc which contribute to normal immune system function. Visit **vitabiotics.com**

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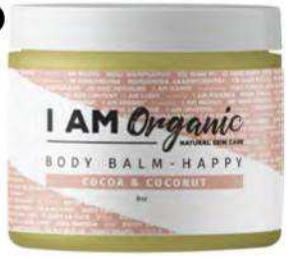
Forever Yours...



1. In style and on trend, **HAWA London**'s uniquely personalised pieces are a luxury essential for the summer season. Decorated in a 24k gold plated, sterling silver or warm rose gold plated finish, the pieces are iconic and timeless. View the full collection at **hawalondon.com** and follow **@hawa.ldn** on IG.

2. I AM Organic is a company dedicated to making clean skin care that smells as amazing as it performs. This multi-use body balm, I AM Organic's best seller, is formulated with a special blend of vitamin-rich oils and butters to promote healthy looking and feeling skin. Perfect for rougher areas like palms, elbows, knees, and feet or as an overnight treatment for cuticles, lips, and the delicate under-eye area. Use code BGQ35 for 35% off (expires 04/07/2018). **Iamorganicskin.com**

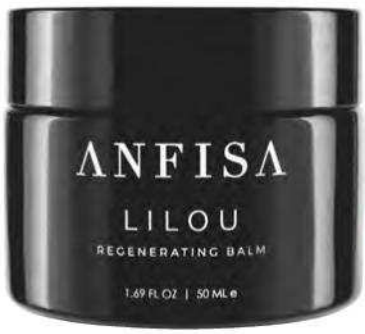
3. POPORCELAIN from Copenhagen, Denmark makes unique and beautiful contemporary porcelain jewellery. Pictured are the Dark Romance Goddess Porcelain Cameo Earrings (€240), created by designer Kay Jiaqi Zhou. These cameos are carefully handcrafted and hand-painted from fine white porcelain. Every piece is unique. Available at **poporcelain.com** and follow on IG: **@poporcelain_official**

4. A world filled with style, colour and amazing shapes. The refinements given by the cohesion of the elements, the balance between emptiness and fullness, light and shadow. A wonderful trip into the world of **Clara In Wonderland** by Clara Longobardo. IG: **clarainwonderland** Visit **clarainwonderland.com**

5. Spoil her with the luxurious Nourishing Organic Serum from **ELIROSE SKINCARE**. She will thank you for introducing her to an exquisite organic serum that will replenish and moisturise her skin leaving it velvety soft. Certified organic, vegan and cruelty-free. Use code: GQ2018 for 15% off (expires 30/06/2018). Visit **eliroseskincare.com**

6. Insignia London's certified 100% natural and organic Rosehip oil can help to reduce the appearance of premature ageing. It is packed with ingredients such as vitamin E, vitamin C, vitamin D and B-carotene. This luxurious oil can help your skin appear youthful, radiant and nourished with moisture. Discover more at **insigniaIdn.com**

7. A stunning set of 18K Gold Disc Earrings set with baroque South Sea Pearls, by Andulairah of **De Alonso.** Representing a penchant for ancient antiquity, this De Alonso creation was inspired by the old worlds of Mesopotamia, featuring glyphs of that great epoch. Visit **dealonso.com**



8. Anfisa's Lilou Regenerating Balm is formulated without water, fillers or wax. The silky green balm melts on contact with the skin leaving the skin appearing dewy and serene. It nourishes the skin with moisture, resulting in the appearance of a glowing complexion. Visit **anfisaskin.com**

9. Based in Baku, **Narmeen** creates jewellery which articulates her orient heritage and contemporary vision together. The brand embodies classic elegance, effortless style and femininity. The Narmeen woman is someone who can embrace their femininity in an effortless and elegant way. Visit **narmeenjewelry.com** and follow on IG **@narmeenjewelry**

10. Inspired by the "Eternal City" **Roma Designer Jewelry** offers unique pieces of fine Italian design and craftsmanship meant to evoke a sense of effortless elegance and timeless style. Stunning pieces in sterling silver with gold and platinum vermeil. See the collection at **romadesignerjewelry.com**

11. DECIÈLIS – A tale upon a silken canvas, made in Italy. Founded by London College of Fashion graduate designer Zoë Kara Hili. Decièlis scarves and accessories are a kaleidoscopic range of hand illustrated stories woven onto the finest silks in Italy's Lake Como. Discover more of Decièlis' signature geometric stylised motifs in several of their exclusive summer capsule collections available at **Decielis.com** email **info@decielis.com** IG: **@decielis** FB: **facebook.com/decielis**

12. This potent cream, by **CBD of London**, is formulated with dehydrated and sensitive skin in mind and will leave skin feeling rejuvenated and more youthful in appearance. It contains powerful Vitamin A and E, enriched with Jojoba oil and phytocannabiniod rich CBD extract. Visit **cbdoflondon.co.uk** and follow on IG **@cbdoflondon**

13. By Lolita is a New York based jewellery brand, inspired by modern women all over the world. They carry a timeless aesthetic collection that will have you feeling flawless and elegant. Their pieces will unleash your inner goddess! Follow them on IG **@bylolitajewelry** or visit **bylolita.com**

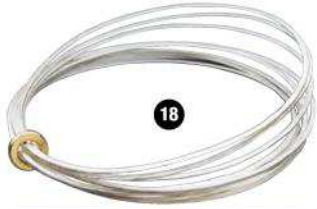
14. A Box of Happiness is **The Happiness Planner**'s new product line. Each box is themed and comes with a journal, a notebook, a set of worksheets and quote cards designed to help you find your purpose in life. Do you want to wake up every day feeling inspired to pursue your life's calling? This Box can help you get one step closer to that. Visit **thehappinessplanner.co.uk**

15. Alchemy by Way of Luxury; **Recherche Beauté**, a supremely luxurious, natural, and minimalist skincare ritual crafted in California and inspired by the wisdom of Ayurveda, Traditional Eastern Medicine and Modern Science. The alchemy integrates pure and sustainably sourced ingredients to impart sublime beauty and radiance to one's skin. Visit **recherchebeaute.com**

16. Étymologie's ethos is "Effective, Ethical, Empowering." Their Active Clay cleanser is formulated to provide a gentle, effective clean, to leave skin feeling cleansed and refreshed, but not tight and dry. Luxuriate in the smooth texture and fragrance of Red Clay, Ylang Ylang, and Moringa Oil for a true self-care experience. Visit **Etymologie.ca**

17. Viennese born brand, **Fabrini**, presents a wonderful collection of beautifully designed jewellery inspired by the Italian 'Dolce Vita'. This timeless, yet modern selection of stacking rings, drop earrings and delicate necklaces are available in silver and gold plated with semi-precious stones. For luxury pieces without the luxury price tag visit **fabrini.at** and use code 'GQ15' for 15% off (expires 30/06/2018). Follow on IG **@fabriniofficial**

18. Latham & Neve – known for their stunning contemporary hand-made British jewellery since 1997. Featured is the unique Ripple Bangle in beaten silver and 18ct gold, £230.00. Ballroom bangles, everyday earrings, ravishing rings and much much more... Buy online/stockists/brochure, visit **lathamandneve.co.uk** or call **01580 753399**.



19. Saturday Lashes offer seven different styles to choose from, each corresponding to the different days of the week. Their wide range of designs are suitable for all different eye shapes and artistic preferences. Each pair of their eyelashes are 100% handmade, cruelty free and contain the softest, lightest hairs. Visit **saturdaylashes.com**

20. Jasper Living is a luxury fashion brand. Louise Jasper is behind the label, Danish but located in Singapore, she got inspired by the multi-cultural environment in country right away when she touch ground in 2011. Beautiful and unique summer pieces, hand woven and all in limited edition. Shop the range at **jasperliving.com** Follow on IG **@louise_jasper**

21. Delia Summer creates personalised bags and clutches made of natural fiber. Their key passion lies in providing perfectly individualised bags of the best possible quality. The striped PALM LEAF CLUTCH comes with embroidered personalized initials on finest Italian cotton. Different designs available. Visit **deliasummer.com**

22. "Luxury Doesn't Have a SIZE" as **Nina Sharae** takes over the world as being an advocate and owner of a luxurious resort and swimwear apparel company for plus size women. Nina Sharae made history in October 2017, by becoming the first plus company to showcase full figure women wearing tasteful swimwear in Accra, Ghana. As Nina continues to break barriers, you can follow or visit **ninasharae.com**

23. Say something special with the new Personalised Hammered Open Bangle (from £69) by **Merci Maman.** Each piece of jewellery is hand-engraved with the name, dates or short message of your choice and delivered to you in a signature gift box. Handmade in London and available in sterling silver, 18K gold plated or rose gold. Visit their website at **mercimamanboutique.com**

24. Cherry & the Bees (Macarons & Lingerie), a French and British young brand, create adorable and unique lingerie-pastries inspired by British afternoon tea gatherings, tasty French macarons and cosy and colourful lingerie. Syringa set £55 Visit **cherryandthebees.com** email **contact@cherryandthebees.com**

25. Simon Wright offers a complete bespoke service, making your jewellery in platinum and gold using the finest diamonds and gemstones. An appointment involves viewing stones, a short tour of the workshop, and a sit down design session all in his Clerkenwell studio workshop. By appointment only. Visit **sw-jewellery.com** for more information.

26. ID Peters London; an exquisite, luxury British accessories brand inspired by Africa. Their sophisticated fusion of Safari meets the contemporary wardrobe for the fun, fearless and independent woman who appreciates pure silks and quality accessories. Treat yourself or someone special. Visit **idpeters.com** IG **@idpetersLondon**

27. Based in Washington, DC, **Nikki Hendricks** is a Designer who uses bold patterns and eclectic materials in her designs. Drawing inspiration from pop culture, futurism and social science; her brand Hendricks, uniquely appeals to a vast gender spectrum. Recent design presentations in DC, New York, Paris and Milan for FW17. Upcoming reveals in NY, Ferric and London for FW18. IG: **@nikkithedesigner** or visit **nikkihendricks.shop**

28. Laura Miers' debut collection from her hand wrought label is dedicated to bringing you a transparent celebration of Australian stones and materials. The K&K Ring is encrusted with a Rough Champagne Diamond from Western Australia and Parti Sapphire from Queensland. Visit **lauramiers.com** and follow on IG **@lauramiersjewellery**

29. Natty + Co. Trio gold statement rings. Two yellow gold and a spice of rose gold with unique design. Inspired for every day wear to make you feel special, sexy and confident. Handcrafted in Los Angeles, CA using 14k gold. View more dainty designs at **natty-co.com** and follow on IG **@nattyco_**

30. Revossa Fashion, a women's clothing store based out of Vancouver, Canada. Offering only the sleekest styles with guaranteed high quality. Bodysuits, faux furs, body contour dresses available at **revossafashion.com** or take a look at the IG **@revossafashion** Image styled by founder and stylist Siman Heer **@styledbysiman**

31. L. Skelly Jewellery is owned and operated by goldsmith, Chelsea Vohanka from her home-based studio in British Columbia, Canada. Chelsea designs and handcrafts bold, unique jewellery that evokes a sense of rustic opulence while making a fierce statement. To see more of Chelsea's work visit **lskellyjewellery.com**

32. Beloved NYC offers a collection of exquisite 18K gold, fine jewellery that commemorates or celebrates the great loves of our lives. Crafted with love in NYC. When you remember, your beloved lives forever. Visit **belovedfinejewelry.com**

33. Emilia Spasskaia is a Russia-born designer based in Zurich. Her focus is on sustainable fashion. For her sustainability is no longer a trend, but a business imperative. She uses organically produced materials for her designs, and sources them from leading European textile producers. Her favourites are handrafted traditional lace and silk. Emilia designs haute-couture made to measure pieces, and produces selected feature designs in limited editions. She likes technology and already accepts cryptocurrencies. Visit **EmiliaSpasskaia.com**

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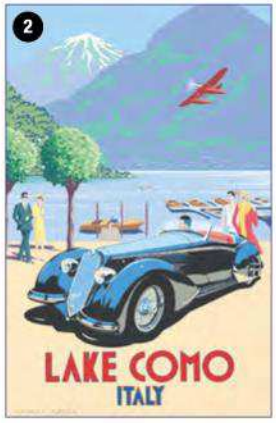
Inside Out...



1. Tamara Nelson is a Newport Beach, California based artist. Working from concept to fabrication, her work has been featured in residential and commercial projects including commissions for hotels and casinos in Las Vegas and California. Tamara offers originals, custom commissions, and prints on fine art papers, metal and acrylic. Her featured piece is "Madagascar" Resin on Cradled Birch. Visit **tamaranelsonart.com** email **tamara@tamaranelsonart.com** or call **+1 949 510 6602**. **2. Pullman Editions** designs striking original limited-edition posters that capture the enduring appeal of Art Deco. Their posters feature winter sports, glamorous resorts around the world, and historic automobiles. Over 100 designs available at £395 each. Call **020 7730 0547** or view and buy online at **pullmaneditions.com** **3. Axel Vindenes** is an artist from Bergen, Norway. He is inspired by Edvard Munch, Henri Matisse, Mark Rothko and Picasso. This image is his band Kakkmaddafakka's latest album cover titled 'Hus'. Visit **axelvindenesstudio.com** or email **contact@axelvindenesstudio.com** to find out more. **4.** The future has arrived: Teak Star. If you are tired of boring traditional squares and circles, the Teak Star cutting board collection from **Edge of Belgravia** offers something more exciting. The angular hexagonal look is striking and appears like something from the future, perhaps making cutting a little more thrilling. You may also be tempted to use it as a serving platter. Your guests will no doubt be intrigued. Now available for pre-order on **Indiegogo.com** For more information see **edgeofbelgravia.co.uk** **5.** Seen here is Synk. High quality birch plywood legs and frame make this table strong as well as beautiful. **Rigg** manufactures a wide range of other products including coffee tables and desks in Birmingham, UK. Take a look at **rigg.uk** or call **0800 6510001** for more information. **6. Marcela Solana** is an emerging artist and designer from Mexico. Known for using mainly acrylic in her paintings she creates bold and almost hypnotic works portraying intricate images of everyday objects. Visit **marcelasolana.com** or email **info@marcelasolana.com** for more information. **7.** The Black Label line of natural soy candles by California-based **Craft + Foster** offers masculine blends that entice both men and women alike. With muted packaging and fragrant throws, these candles will subtly enhance the brilliance of life's everyday moments, no matter where you are. Visit **craftandfoster.com** Follow: **@craftandfoster** **8.** "Psychological projection". **Natalia Lewandowska** is a London based artist best known for her original mixed-media artworks and surreal collages merging vibrant colours with ink. Natalia obtained her Master degree from Royal College of Art and has extensive exhibition history. Her artworks are also available at Saatchi. Visit **natalialewandowska.co.uk** or email **ne.lewandowska@gmail.com** to find out more. **9. EQLight** is dedicated to innovative, timeless design and immaculately crafted pieces. Seen here is the Hado Light, available in four different sizes, designed by Eduardo Alcalde and inspired by the original 1964 modular construction system by Antonio Carrillo. To see the entire collection of beautifully soft illumination, visit **equilibrium-in-light.com** **10. I AM Dimitri** is an extremely talented contemporary artist. Inspired by pop and street culture, his digital and mixed media works have been composed using layered textures and sprays. This unique method brings his portraits to life. Private commissions also available, visit **iamdimitri.co.uk** IG: **@iamdimitri.co.uk** **11. Alyssa Hamilton** is a young, American artist whose style is bold and expressive. She incorporates a variety of mediums into her strong, intuitive style. Featured work: "Vortex, 2018." Visit **alyssahamiltonart.com** or IG **@alyssahamiltonart** for more. **12. Brandi Hofer** is a well collected Canadian artist who focuses on figurative and portraiture painting. She explores themes of empowerment, feminism, the emotional self and the female psyche. Her work has been shown in solo and group exhibitions in France, London, New York, and across Canada. Brandi has experience in creating custom artworks and has worked with designers on national television. Visit **brandihofer.ca** or follow her on IG **@BrandiHoferArtist** to find out how to invest in this ambitious artist.

The Summer Spirit...

1. The convincing and unique taste of **Needle Gin**, is not only the combination of special black forest botanicals, like spruce needles, but also the love given by the Black Forest master distillers. Needle is Black Forest. Needle is all you need. **needle-gin.com**

2. The Orchard Gin Co. knows how to make damson gin. Handmade using fruit from the original family orchard and finished with the OGCo signature wax seal, it's devilishly drinkable – perfect simply over ice. The Rhubarb gin is also a bit special! Visit **orchardginco.co.uk**

3. KNUT HANSEN is a Hamburg dry gin from Germany. This gin, with its very unique design, is produced in small batches and bottled by hand. In an elaborate process, they distil their gin four times with extremely slow energy input and in small passages – only in this way is it possible to preserve the unique KNUT HANSEN flavour and to protect the natural flavours in the gin. Visit **knuthansengin.de** or **masterofmalt.com**

4. Cruzloma is a handcrafted Ecuadorian Amazon gin. This unique gin is characteristic by the mysterious region from which it is produced, located at latitude 0° 0' 0". Thanks to its climate and fertile lands the region provides some of the best, high quality ingredients in the world. Among these, the guayusa and coca are noteworthy, the latter giving Cruzloma the title of the first London Dry Gin with coca leaf. Visit **cruzloma.com**

5. The fine taste of grapes combined with the full-bodied aroma of spicy juniper berries, finished with a splash of vanilla. That's **WUE GIN** – out of love from Frankonia. Every drop is handcrafted with passion and a lot of heart. For more information visit **wuegin.de**

6. The **STIN** – Styrian Dry Gin's unique flavour is made up of 28 carefully selected botanicals. Juniper berries, south Styrian apples and east Styrian elderflowers dominate the fresh and distinctive taste of STIN Gin. To find out more about the winner of the World Spirit Awards for Gin visit **stin.at**

7. Rum and Coffee, Shaken or Stirred. Introducing award winning **RumJava** Artisan Crafted Rums. All natural and inspired by a passion for Caribbean culture, rum, and coffee, RumJava is infused with Java'Mon coffee and other natural ingredients. Proudly 100% handcrafted, hand-filled, and hand-sealed. Find RumJava at **rumjava.com** and at GQ Shops.

8. Kinrara Distillery is one of Scotland's newest micro distilleries. Their Scottish Highland is a juniper led dry gin, combining both foraged and locally sourced botanicals. The rosehip's and rowan berries that they use in the gin have been gathered from the estate grounds throughout the year. Visit **kinraradistillery.com**

9. Handmade with pure Icelandic water, hand-picked wildflowers, and honey, **Himbrimi Gin** is a unique Old Tom Gin, unlike anything you have ever tasted before. Based on early 18th century Old Tom recipes, it is considered a perfect sipping gin. Himbrimi Gin is best served neat, preferably while flyfishing in a flowing river, but also works wonderfully in a variety of classic cocktails. Visit **himbrimi.com** and follow **@ginhimbrimi**

10. One can immediately recognise the scent of roasted hazelnuts from **Wolfrest Gin**, a new Italian brand that prides itself on its extremely delicate and unique flavour. This product is perfect to enjoy mixed or neat thanks to it's nutty and Mediterranean notes. Available at Harrods. Visit **wolfrestgin.com**

11. Douglas Laing's Scallywag is a small batch marriage of Speyside Single Malts. The unique recipe is matured predominantly in sherry butts, imparting a rich, chocolatey and dark fruity character to the whisky. The family firm recommends savouring a neat dram from your favourite whisky glass, or mix Scallywag with ice and ginger ale for a refreshing long serve. RRP £42.99 at **DouglasLaing.com** Follow Scallywag on IG **@remarkable_malts**

12. Icelandic Mountain Spirits. Inspired by the old Icelandic saga of the Guardians of Iceland. The Gold Medal winner Icelandic Mountain Vodka and the Eagle Gin are the newest addition to Costco here in the UK. Visit **icelandicmountainvodka.is**

13. Inspired by nature. Led by science. Crafted by hand. Combining a cutting edge distillation process and a closely guarded secret blend of botanicals selected for their molecular structure, this new luxury spirit from Greater Manchester tells a very different juniper story. **Worsley Gin** has a smooth finish with an incredible depth of flavour that differentiates this truly luxury Gin from its counterparts. Available from **worlseygin.co.uk**

14. Hotham's pride themselves on their traditionally handcrafted microbatch gins. Hotham's Cardamom Gin pairs perfectly with spicy food with its punchy cardamom flavour – green and spicy but with enough juniper to satisfy traditional gin lovers. Find out more at **cardamomgin.co.uk**

15. Franklin & Sons Cloudy Apple & Yorkshire Rhubarb with Cinnamon. Specially sourced tart Yorkshire rhubarb combined with sweet apple juice and a hint of cinnamon. This award-winning Apple & Rhubarb delivers a uniquely refined taste experience; with only 60 calories per bottle. Available to buy in Tesco and Harrods. Visit **franklinandsons.co.uk** or IG **@franklinandsons**

16. One sip and you'll know why they named it **Divine Gin.** Created with pure passion and uncompromising quality, this exciting small batch gin is refreshingly individual and beautifully complex. Best served with a plain tonic and garnished with strawberries to collide with the pepperiness delivered from cubeb and grains of paradise, tantalising aromas and glorious flavour. Spread your wings and try something new, its simply Divine! Stockists at **divinegin.com** Contact **social@divinegin.com**

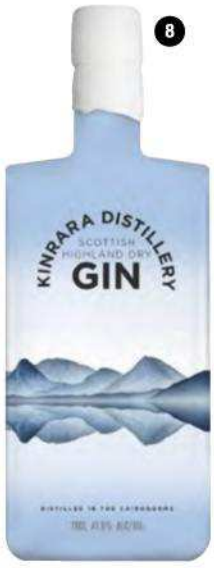
17. Duck and Crutch is a London ("Kensington") Dry Gin manually produced in a 6ft x 4ft shed, by self-taught distillers and entrepreneurs, George and Hollie. Founded in the heart of Kensington, the spirit is a Juniper-heavy, warm and smooth gin with hints of spice and a Darjeeling tea finish. Serve over ice with tonic and fresh thyme. Available for £50 at **duckandcrutch.co.uk** or see what they have been up to on IG **@duckandcrutchgin**

18. Rush Energy Drink represents vitality and sophistication in the context of effervescent liquid energy. A premium product, Rush transcends traditional energy drinks by offering a smooth beverage infused with exceptional flavour. From a mid afternoon boost to late night inspiration. Rush drives performance for corporate achievers and nocturnal urbanites alike. For more information visit **rushdrink.com**

19. The Arran Malt 'The Bothy' is a stunning small batch Single Malt Scotch Whisky which has been matured in small quarter cask barrels. The smaller size of cask means that the whisky has greater contact with the wood, and the resulting whisky is sweet, spicy and full of intense fruity flavour. A winner at the World Whiskies Awards 2018 coming top in its category, this whisky can be purchased from good specialist whisky shops or from **arranwhisky.com** A wonderful gift for anyone who appreciates a great quality, hand crafted Single Malt. RRP £49.99.

20. Savage Vines deliver wines from independent family owned vineyards straight to your door. Not only do members get epic wines, the Savage community have access to exclusive restaurant deals with some of London's hippest establishments and badass playlists to accompany their wines via their Spotify Channel – Savage FM. Find out more about the number 1 wine subscription on earth at **savagevines.co.uk** and use coupon code 'GQSAVAGE' on checkout for your 4th box for free (expires 31/08/2018).

21. Thomas Henry Cherry Blossom Tonic is the worlds first and only Cherry Blossom flavoured Tonic available: fruity-floral notes of Cherry Blossom meet the mild bitterness of quinine for a refreshing summerly taste. Perfectly fits to Gin, Vermouth, Vodka and Rum. Visit **thomas-henry.com** for delicious drink recipes and free cocktail workshops. Available at **cellartrends.co.uk**



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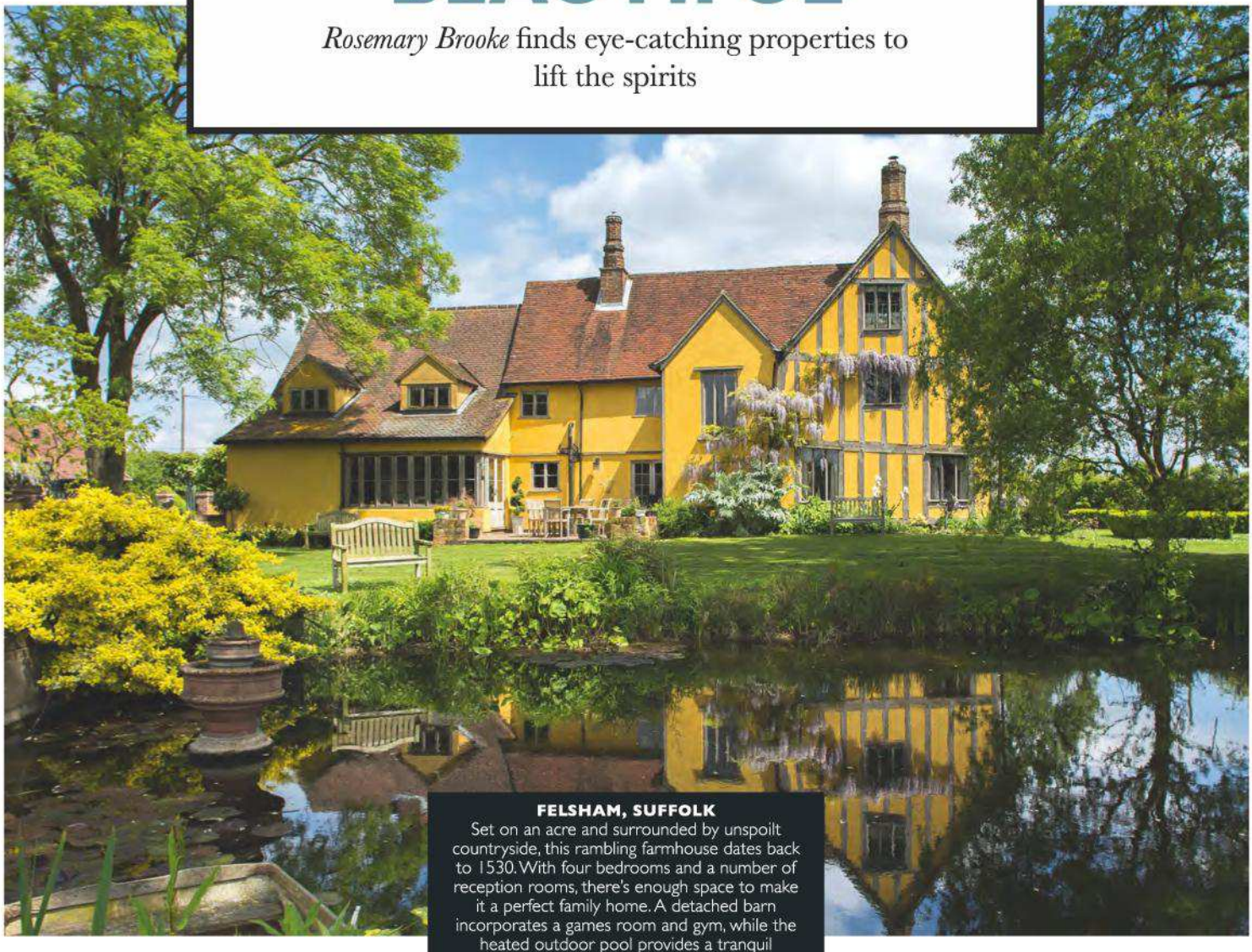
BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL

Rosemary Brooke finds eye-catching properties to lift the spirits



FELSHAM, SUFFOLK
Set on an acre and surrounded by unspoilt countryside, this rambling farmhouse dates back to 1530. With four bedrooms and a number of reception rooms, there's enough space to make it a perfect family home. A detached barn incorporates a games room and gym, while the heated outdoor pool provides a tranquil spot to while away hot summer days.
Guide price: £1.5 million.
Jackson-Stops: 01284 700535

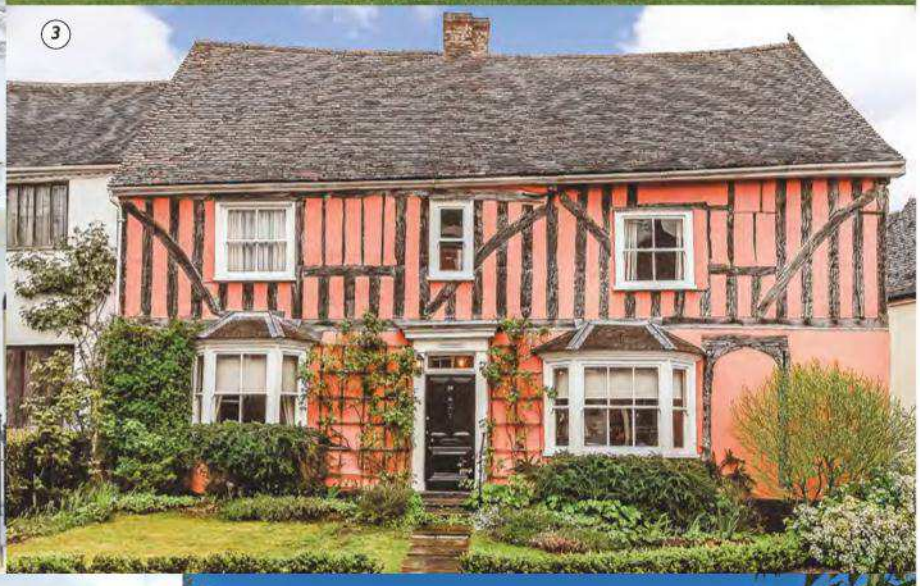
From grand townhouses to rambling country cottages, Britain is famed for its variety of postcard-pretty properties that brim with charm and character. In centuries past, homeowners were far bolder with personalising the exteriors of their abodes – medieval builders rendered houses in a rainbow of colours, adding natural pigments to lime wash to achieve shades of red, cream, yellows and even muted tones of orange.

One of the loveliest historic shades is Suffolk pink, which still endures today. In the past, it was achieved by using dyes such as elderberries and sloes, or an unsavoury concoction of pigs' blood and buttermilk, but now decorators are more likely to use a heritage brand of paint to achieve this rose-tinted hue.

This traditional pink survives at Cordwainers, pictured opposite, a Grade II-listed property in sought-after Lavenham, where many of the period buildings are painted in a similar colour. Dating back to 1425, it retains plenty of original features, including an exposed oak timber frame, all of which are in keeping with Lavenham's status as the best-preserved medieval village in England. The front door is a later Georgian addition, while the interiors are equally atmospheric, with wooden beams and a pair of large bay windows, complete with window seats.

Another Suffolk beauty is the large Tudor farmhouse pictured above, painted in a sunny hue of egg-yolk yellow. It occupies a rural setting, nine miles from the market town of Bury St Edmunds, and the elevations of the earliest part bear traces of simple pargeting, a decorative form of plasterwork that can be found in some Suffolk houses of a similar age. The high red-brick chimneys and ancient oak door add to its distinctive 16th-century character, making it a country retreat that is full of personality.

Colour isn't just confined to the countryside, however – London is just as vibrant, with enclaves of Notting Hill and Chelsea boasting picturesque mews of candy-coloured houses. But who could resist an elegant, stucco-fronted townhouse, such as the one in South Kensington featured opposite? For even if you tire of white, you can always paint the front door…



1. HEREFORD SQUARE, SOUTH KENSINGTON
With six bedrooms, six bathrooms and four reception rooms, this grandly proportioned townhouse occupies 3,680 square feet of one of London's most desirable areas, close to the V&A and the Natural History Museum. It has extensive outdoor space, plus access to a private garden square. £7.95 million. *Russell Simpson: 020 7225 0277*

2. DROXFORD, HANTS
With far-ranging views and single-bank fishing rights, this lemon-yellow Georgian lodge is set in the village of Droxford, in the South Downs National Park. There are 12 acres of grounds, including a rose garden, a tennis court and secret Napoleonic tunnels, a relic of its military history. Guide price: £2.3 million. *Sotheby's International Realty: 01932 860537*

3. LAVENHAM, SUFFOLK
This quaint, semi-detached cottage is rendered even more charming by its rosy exterior. Although it dates from the 15th century, internally the three-bedroom property is completely up-to-date, having been recently rewired and replumbed, with underfloor heating and a top-notch kitchen, as well as a separate garage. £595,000. *Carter Jonas: 01787 844772*

4. ICKHAM, KENT
Located in the village of Ickham on the outskirts of Canterbury, The Parsonage is a six-bedroom house set over three floors. The interiors have a light and airy feel, with high ceilings. The gardens extend over two acres, with formal and wild elements. Guide price: £1.395 million. *Strutt & Parker: 01227 473742*

5. COMPTON, WEST SUSSEX
This spectacular Regency country house is Grade II listed, with seven bedrooms and four reception rooms, and set in a pretty South Downs village. The drawing room has glass doors opening on to the walled garden, while the kitchen comes with a traditional slate-shelved pantry. £2.275 million. *Savills: 01483 796800 or 01798 345980*

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TREVOR SQUARE, KNIGHTSBRIDGE SW7

This fabulous six bedroom duplex apartment (6,400 sqft / 595 sqm) is located across two floors in this exclusive residential apartment block. Originally developed by Candy & Candy to the highest specifications, the accommodation includes three amazing reception rooms overlooking Trevor Square totalling 75 feet in length with an extremely spacious kitchen/breakfast room.

The master bedroom suite includes two bathrooms and two dressing rooms and there are a further five very spacious bedroom suites, all with ensuite bathrooms. Four very generous parking spaces which can accommodate the largest saloon cars, are located on the first floor private resident's car park. Considered to be one of the best residential developments in Knightsbridge,

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17-22 Trevor Square is a few minutes' walk from Harrods, Hyde Park and Sloane Street and was originally redeveloped from the former Harrods depository building in 2002, providing generously proportioned residences behind a 19th century listed façade, providing a full 24-concierge service, private car parking and 24 hour security.

Guide Price: £30,000,000 Subject to Contract
Tenure: Leasehold with 982 years remaining
Viewing: Strictly by appointment
EPC: Rating D

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BLUE SKY LIVING

The vision of Dutch architecture firm UNStudio, Canaletto in east London reinvents luxury living by offering residents a unique urban experience at the centre of the city's vibrant arts and culture hub. Arta Ghanbari reports

London's so called Silicon Roundabout, encompassing the junction of Old Street and City Road east of the centre, is home not only to some of the most innovative technology businesses and start-ups in the country, but also to the city's most creative crowd. With neighbours such as Shoreditch and Hoxton, this pocket of the capital is spoilt with artisan restaurants and cafes, stylish cocktail haunts, designer shops and art galleries.

In July of last year, one of the most anticipated additions to City Road was unveiled. Canaletto, an imposing 31-storey residential concept cast in glass and aluminium, is a sculptural masterpiece offering luxury

living and a design signature that differs from the glass boxes springing up throughout the city. The vision of renowned Dutch architect Ben van Berkel of UNStudio, this is the ideal home for young professionals and families who crave to be a part of all the vibrant area has to offer. 'It was essential for us that Canaletto would have a distinctly residential expression and a multifaceted reading, and that it would in no way resemble a hermetic corporate office block of glass and steel,' says van Berkel of the design. 'We wanted the residents to really feel like they are part of a unique work of architecture, something that is identifiably theirs.'

He has employed a clever play on perception by creating a series of 'vertical communities', in which several floors have been clustered together. 'From a distance, I wanted the building to be experienced like an Anthony Caro sculpture, presenting a variety of façades when viewed from different angles. From close by, however, it more resembles a piece of unfolded paper,' he adds. And indeed, Canaletto stops passersby in their tracks, demanding each of its five façades be looked upon and carefully considered.

'Spanning two floors, with floor-to-ceiling windows offering 360-degree views of the city, the generous penthouse has over 3,000 square feet of outdoor space, including a vast outdoor terrace complete with its own lap pool.'

SPECIAL TREATMENT
The penthouse offers 3,000 square feet of outside space *(far left)*, bespoke furniture *(left)* and a collection of modern art *(below)*

When it comes to the top end of the property market, Canaletto offers a different flavour and vibe to developments in the more traditional areas of Mayfair and Marylebone. This is precisely the draw for its residents, who include a local art-gallery owner in his late 30s, and a Scandinavian couple in their 40s with a tech business developing apps. The 190 units range from studios to three-bedrooms in the Beaumont Collection apartments on the 25th to 28th floors, and a generous penthouse with over 4,000 square feet of floor space plus an additional 3,000 square feet of outdoor space. All standard units have been sold, with only three units in the Beaumont Collection remaining, as well as the penthouse.

Spanning two floors, the penthouse has 360-degree views of the city, with floor-to-ceiling windows, design-led interiors incorporating a mix of materials and finishes, and a curated art collection. 'Canaletto's penthouse scheme is linked to the soft faceted geometry of the tower,' says Tom Bartlett of Waldo Works, who conceived the interior design. 'Around the central core of the penthouse, we designed a ribbon of panelling that interacts with each room, changing material and direction as it moves.'

The collection of art throughout the penthouse includes pieces by Anish Kapoor, Gary Hume and Josef Hoflehner. Upon entering from the lift, you are faced with an oxblood-lacquer table custom-designed by Waldo Works, which references the architecture of the building. In the main dining area on the lower floor, a bespoke table seating 20 people is supported by structured brass legs. 'The space is very liveable and we have employed bold use of colour, as a step away from the bland interiors of beige,' says Bartlett. On the upper floor, the interior is designed to connect with the vast garden terrace, complete with a lap pool.

Just as integral to the design of Canaletto are the social spaces throughout the building, which include a 15-metre indoor swimming pool, a spa and health facilities, a surround-sound cinema, a billiards lounge and a members' club for residents and their guests that spans the whole of the 24th floor, rivalling nearby Shoreditch House. All paying homage to the sense of community nurtured at the residence.

As London remains one of the global hubs of luxury living, there's no better place to experience the rich cultural tapestry and diversity of the city than at this epicentre of creativity.

Beaumont collection apartments start from £3.2m.
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GLORIOUS GARDENS

As the world pays horticultural homage to Chelsea, *Claire Pilton* looks at country, coastal and town houses with show-stopping gardens

SALTASH, CORNWALL
Lady Boyd, holder of the RHS's Victoria Medal of Honour, is selling Ince Castle for £7 million. Perched on a private 190-acre peninsula, the brick-built manor house looks over the River Lynher and the sea towards Plymouth. The five-acre gardens have been open to the public in support of the RHS's National Gardens Scheme since the 1970s.
Knight Frank: 01392 848823, and Strutt & Parker: 020 7629 7282

The market may not be at its zenith, but for purchasers in search of homes with glorious gardens, the choice is wonderfully colourful. Pick of the bunch is Ince Castle in Cornwall, pictured above, and Dunsborough Park in Ripley, Surrey, whose gardens were originally laid out in the 18th century. It has been open to the public since 1997, and an annual festival of tulips in April is followed by summer peonies, wisteria and roses, September dahlias and, during winter, a frosty vision. Two full-time gardeners, advised by garden designer Rupert Golby, tend the Dutch Garden, Water Garden, White Garden, Italian Garden, Old Rose Garden and Medicinal Border. Extending to 108 acres, this beautifully maintained residential estate has a Grade II-listed country house, ten cottages, equestrian facilities and a £17 million guide price through Savills.

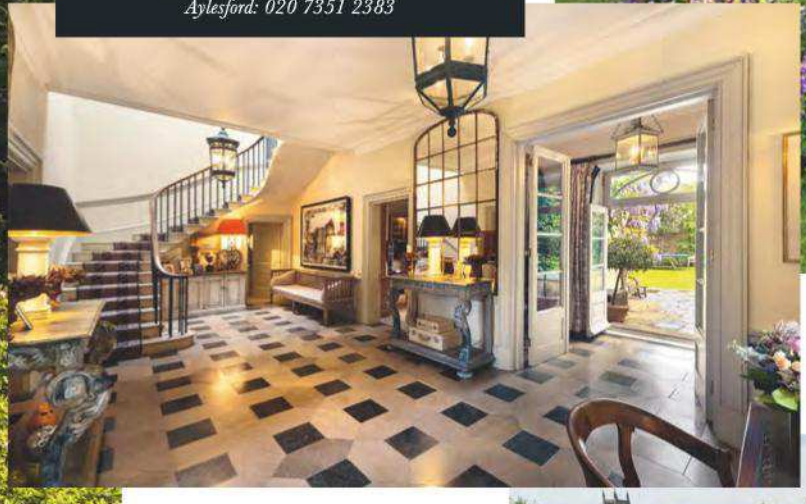
If that sounds too great an undertaking, in Hadlow Down, East Sussex, a six-bay hall house with 2.5-acre grounds is on the market for £1.4 million through Strutt & Parker. Heady herbaceous beds are teamed with mature trees, an ornamental pond, knot and kitchen gardens, as well as a stocked lake with a bridge and wild-flower meadow beyond.

Alternatively, in Torquay, Devon, £1.25 million could, through Marchand Petit, see you residing in the substantial part of a Grade II-listed Victorian villa that enjoys coastal access from its 2.9-acre gardens; these form part of an estate designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel under the influence of William Nesfield, who was known for his work in Kew.

In Chelsea, Stanley House sits in an acre of grounds which, as agent Hamptons points out, are 'unrivalled in scale' for their central location. The Grade II* Georgian manor house is POA, although a little birdie has been tweeting offers over £60 million. Private outdoor space in London is at a perennial premium, but the capital is well blessed with communal gardens, squares and parks.

TREDEGAR SQUARE, BOW, E3
Dining al fresco assumes a new dimension in this Georgian garden square, where an exceptional Grade II*-listed five-bedroom terraced house is on the market for £4.25 million. There are views of the square gardens to the front and, to the rear, a 118-foot landscaped oasis with a limestone island and built-in barbecue surrounded by water. *Savills: 020 7578 6200*

BATTERSEA, SW11
Set within a handsome walled garden, this unbelievably quiet, low-built, six-bedroom house combines the character of a country seat with doorstep proximity to the Thames, the Park and Thomas's Battersea day school. Yours for £10.5 million, complete with a guest/staff annex, parking for six cars and an outdoor swimming pool.
Russell Simpson: 020 7225 0277
Aylesford: 020 7351 2383



BRADFIELD ST GEORGE, SUFFOLK
Surrounded by undulating countryside, this £895,000, Grade II-listed five-bedroom farmhouse has two traditional barns and the prettiest 1.7-acre gardens. Featured on BBC2's 'Great British Garden Revival', they incorporate a formal herb garden, mini orchard, vegetable garden, ancient meadow, two ponds and a small stream.
Carter Jonas: 01787 882881

WALMER, KENT
Within walking distance of the beach and train station, this well renovated five-bedroom house, adjoining self-contained cottage and annexe costs £1.375 million. Rear elevations of mellowed brick, painted render, weather boarding, hung slates and Kent peg tiles enhance the large and partly walled garden's 'outdoor rooms'.
Bright & Bright: 01304 374071

On the north side of one of the world's grandest garden squares, the 37 residences at Twenty Grosvenor Square combine Finchatton design with Four Seasons service and a garden courtyard by landscape architect Randle Siddeley. Four-bedroom apartments start from £17.5 million through Knight Frank and Savills. At Islington Square, one-bedroom flats that look out on this new development's Zen Garden start from £795,000. Designed by Chelsea gold medallist Peter Chan, the essence of the garden is 'Simplicity by choice, tranquillity by nature, and being in tune with its environment'. As Rudyard Kipling wrote: 'The Glory of the Garden lies in more than meets the eye.'

The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings

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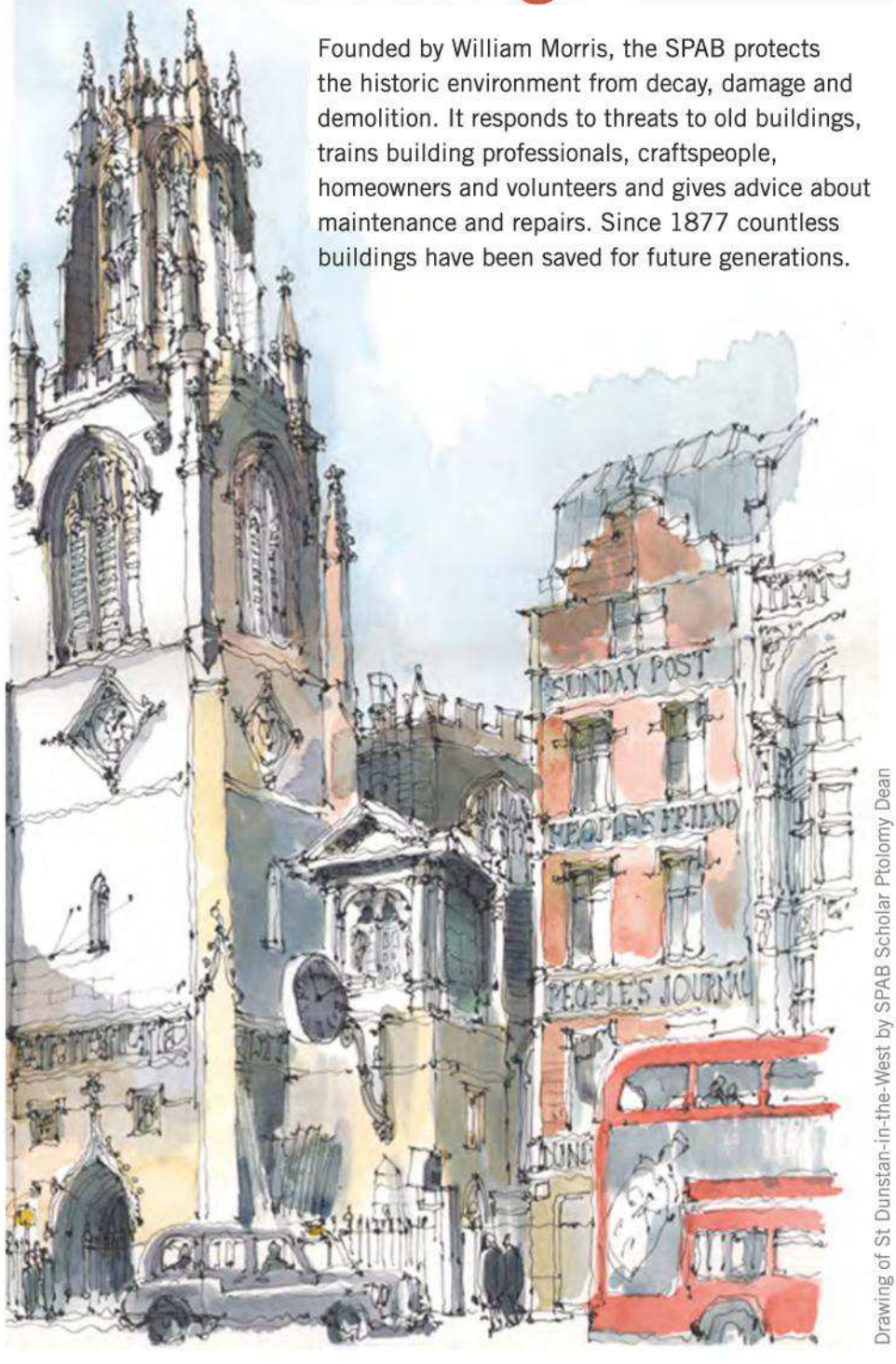
Founded by William Morris, the SPAB protects the historic environment from decay, damage and demolition. It responds to threats to old buildings, trains building professionals, craftspeople, homeowners and volunteers and gives advice about maintenance and repairs. Since 1877 countless buildings have been saved for future generations.



Drawing of St Dunstan-in-the-West by SPAB Scholar Ptolomy Dean

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Situated in Old Bendinat, one of the most desirable addresses in Mallorca, and just a short walk from the sea, this new built villa offers pure Mediterranean living at its best. The skills and expertise of the renowned architect John Pawson combined with outstanding interior design by Axel Vervoordt and contemporary landscape gardening by Jonathan Bell create an irrepeatable property in the perfect place for those who seek ultimate luxury of living. Six ensuite bedrooms, two spacious living and dining areas and wooden decked terraces with a dramatic feature swimming pool of thirty meters length ensure comfort at the highest level. The prestigious property features a guest apartment and a lush mediterranean garden with doors that open to the coast in front of Old Bendinat. For further information contact our office in Puerto Portals.
E&V ID: W-0247DG · Price on request

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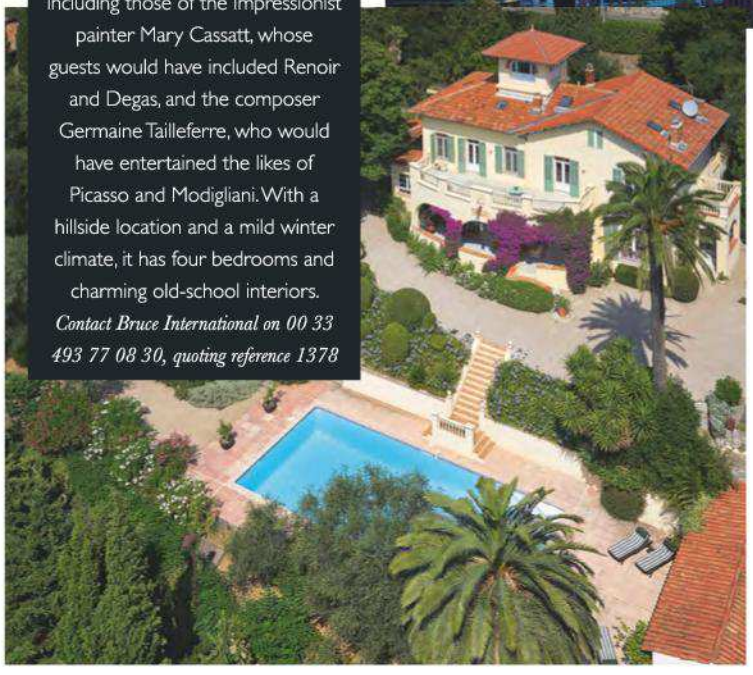
NOTEBOOK

A monthly round-up of property news at home and abroad

BY VIRGINIA PECK

NAME GAME

Could you be the next owner of Villa Angeletto? Built in 1865 and set on the glamorous French Riviera, it has passed through a number of prominent hands, including those of the Impressionist painter Mary Cassatt, whose guests would have included Renoir and Degas, and the composer Germaine Tailleferre, who would have entertained the likes of Picasso and Modigliani. With a hillside location and a mild winter climate, it has four bedrooms and charming old-school interiors. *Contact Bruce International on 00 33 493 77 08 30, quoting reference 1378*



MODERN ICON

This summer will see the final installation of the 50-storey residential tower One Blackfriars in Southwark. Brought to the market by leading London developer St George, the building has been designed by architect Ian Simpson of SimpsonHaugh, and its shape is inspired by a Fifties Scandinavian glass sculpture in his private collection – hence its unofficial name, 'the Vase'. It comprises 274 luxury apartments, and a viewing lounge on the 32nd floor offering panoramic views of the London skyline. *Prices from £2.33 million; www.oneblackfriars.co.uk*

DESIGN FOR LIFE

On tree-lined White Lodge Close, just off the sought-after Bishops Avenue in Hampstead, Regal Homes has created High Trees, a luxurious seven-bedroom mansion spanning four floors and 14,529 square feet. The interiors are by Kelly Hoppen, and the renowned designer has subtly incorporated her signature East-meets-West aesthetic into the property. With a beautiful Arts and Crafts-inspired exterior, High Trees comes with a cinema room, bar, swimming pool, sauna and steam room. *For more information, visit www.regal-london.co.uk*

SAVE THE DATE

If you're on the lookout for the perfect piece of art to complete your home, then why not book tickets for one of the most anticipated events of the season? Organised by Marie Curie, this special edition of the annual private view of the RA Summer Exhibition takes place on Tuesday 3rd July, 7–9pm. Celebrating 250 years of the Royal Academy, the event will have a starry guest list of friends and patrons, and attendees will enjoy an auction of donated pieces hosted by acclaimed art dealer Philip Mould, along with exclusive access to the new RA wing. *For bookings, visit mariecurie.org.uk/royal-academy*

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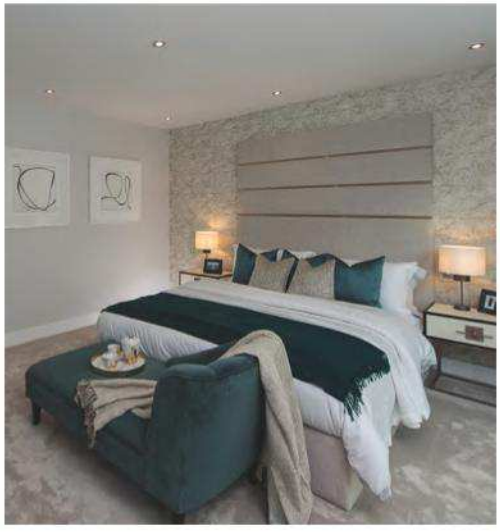
CONTEMPORARY TOWNHOUSE LIVING IN THE HEART OF CHISWICK

Redrow's luxury West London development, 500 Chiswick High Road, is home to an exclusive collection of just five stunning four bedroom townhouses. Split over four levels and boasting two private outdoor spaces, these properties provide a rare opportunity to live in an impressive new build home in Chiswick, one of London's most desirable suburbs.



Generously sized between 2,875 sq ft and 2,899 sq ft the townhouses boast vast open plan kitchen, dining and living areas, offering extensive space for family time and entertaining guests. A unique feature of each townhouse is their two separate private outdoor areas, comprising of a peaceful courtyard and generously sized patio garden.

A boutique style master suite occupies the entire first floor of each townhouse, complete with a dressing room and statement en-suite bathroom.

The townhouses are situated in their own exclusive part of 500 Chiswick High Road, set further back from the apartments. This enhances residents calming views over the private landscaped courtyard and ensures they can truly enjoy the tranquility of this gated residence.

Chiswick is known for its envied lifestyle with its mix of boutique retailers, Michelin star dining, riverside location and green spaces. 500 Chiswick High Road boasts excellent transport links to Chelsea, Kensington and Knightsbridge, which are accessible in less than 30 minutes from nearby Chiswick Park underground station, a four minute walk from the development and Gunnersbury Station a six minute walk, and access to the heart of the West End is only 7.5 miles away by car.

For the latest availability and to find out more about these stunning family homes at 500 Chiswick High Road, please contact our friendly sales consultants today.

Call 0203 733 5892 or go online and visit www.500chiswickhighroad.co.uk for more information.

Show home photography of 500 Chiswick High Road

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Jonathan Heaf Is...

Out to lunch!

This month with **Piers Morgan**

Horndogs and humble pie: this month's conversation starters at Chelsea's Bibendum

Go on, tell me what you think about Piers Morgan. Actually, don't. I know what you think about Piers Morgan. Guess what: Piers Morgan knows what you think about Piers Morgan too. Also, surprise, surprise, Piers Morgan doesn't care what you think about Piers Morgan. A better question might be this: *why* do you think it?

Is it because he hacked a dead girl's phone? Wrong! That was the *News Of The World*. Morgan was editing an entirely different tabloid newspaper at the time. Is it because he published photographs in the *Mirror* purporting to show British troops abusing Iraqi prisoners, photographs that were proved to be fake? Wrong! How could you hate a man for highlighting the very real conditions many POWs were facing while in custody with allied forces? Or have you, as well as everyone else, including Obama, forgotten about Abu Ghraib?

Maybe you don't like the bombastic way he relishes holding celebrities to account on social media. Wrong! I'm sorry, but if people are too narcissistic to notice this is precisely the fuel that fires the engine of Morgan's ego/career/bank account then they deserve all the ridicule coming to them. It's like hating ice for being cold. Or Jacob Rees-Mogg for being a twit.

Is it the gun stuff? Are you a pointy-hood wearing, alt-right piece of trash from Alabama with a loaded AR-15 rifle under your pillow and a fervent, misguided belief in your "right to bear arms" no matter how many school kids get murdered in their algebra class? For your children's sake, I truly hope not.

Let's face it. You think what you think about Morgan because of his cosy relationship with the 45th president of the United States: the shagger-in-chief; Donald "Make America Horny Again" Trump. Admit it: you find their smug, toadying relationship sinister, like watching a couple of rich white guys on a golf course discussing the piece of tail they're going to chase that evening. Right? Right.

"Last time I spoke to Trump was in Davos," explains the man himself – Morgan, not The Donald – as we take our seats at Bibendum, a superb Michelin-starred destination steered by chef Claude Bosi in Chelsea. "I know journalists like John Simpson would have gone out and clubbed him with all the tough questions, but that's why idiots like Simpson will never get to interview Trump. Ever!"

'I've spoken to Harvey [Weinstein] in the clinic in Arizona, for about an hour'

So your BFF relationship secured the exclusive interview? "Of course. He's not stupid. He's a very loyal guy and rewards loyalty. During *Celebrity Apprentice*, I sat down opposite him for three hours every night for six weeks; he's the only person who kept in contact after I left CNN, writing me notes, congratulating me when I joined the *Daily Mail*. I asked him two weeks after he won the election whether I could have the first international television interview. Then and there, he agreed. 'Done,' he said. 'Who else would I give it to, champ?'"

Doesn't seem very democratic. "So what? What's democracy got to do with it?" splutters Morgan, chewing on rabbit and sweetbread while I enjoy the bass. (By the way, the food at Bibendum is exquisite. A word of advice, however, to the owner: urgently do something with the space. It's too light, too vacuous and the food is too good, and too expensive, to be served in a room that has all the atmosphere of a Russian courtroom.)

"Why shouldn't the president be real?" continues Morgan on his most powerful pen pal. "If you asked the British public who were their favourite post-war presidents, they'd say JFK and Clinton, the two biggest horndogs in the history of the United States." Well, other than Trump, I argue. "Trump is a massive horn dog. But does anyone really care about what he got up to with a *Playboy* model or a porn star?" His wife? "Well, perhaps. But he's never made any secret that he's had thousands of girlfriends, many of whom are now quite rightly thinking, 'Wow, that old rich guy I had sex with is the president of the United States – *ker-ching*!'"

Whatever you think of Morgan's style there's no denying he's a savvy operator. And Morgan's next big catch? Harvey Weinstein...

"I've spoken to Harvey in the clinic in Arizona, for about an hour." Is he atoning? "He's fighting. He's a fascinating character. The apocalyptic symptom of the whole thing – the casting couch finally brought to judgement. I can't express the same level of shock as some people in Hollywood. Listen, this has been the system since Hollywood existed. It's been a moral cesspit since the Twenties and the idea that Harvey Weinstein is the only villain? Do me a favour. Look at Mel Gibson: ultimately Harvey believes he will be forgiven."

So for the man whose job it is to have an opinion on everything and everyone, whose opinion does Morgan care about? Trump? Susanna Reid, his patient *Good Morning Britain* cohost? Nope. "Jack Nicholson. He's my Moby-Dick. This time last year I sat on a table opposite him at Madeo's in LA. I just couldn't go over. I bottled it. The first time ever. You know why? Because it's the only time in my life when I couldn't take rejection. Funny that, isn't it?"

Well, you know what Herman Melville wrote, Piers? "I know not all that may be coming, but be it what it will, I'll go to it laughing." Or at the very least, tweeting. **GQ**

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VERDICT Smugness ★★★★★ Irascibility ☆☆☆☆☆ Intuition ★★★★☆ Bants ★★★★★ Style Seriously? **Overall** ★★★★☆

Illustrations **Anton Emdin; Zohar Lazar**

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